

## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

### Polymers, Resist Compositions and Patterning Process

5           This invention relates to polymers useful as the base resin in resist compositions suited for microfabrication. It also relates to resist compositions, especially chemical amplification resist compositions comprising the polymers, and a patterning process using the same.

10

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15           In the drive for higher integration and operating speeds in LSI devices, the pattern rule is made drastically finer. The rapid advance toward finer pattern rules is grounded on the development of a projection lens with an increased NA, a resist material with improved performance, and exposure light of a shorter wavelength. To the demand for a resist material with a higher resolution and  
20           sensitivity, chemical amplification positive working resist materials which are catalyzed by acids generated upon light exposure are effective as disclosed in USP 4,491,628 and USP 5,310,619 (JP-B 2-27660 and JP-A 63-27829). They now become predominant resist materials especially adapted for deep UV  
25           lithography.

          Also, the change-over from i-line (365 nm) to shorter wavelength KrF laser (248 nm) brought about a significant innovation. Resist materials adapted for KrF excimer lasers enjoyed early use on the 0.30 micron process, passed through  
30           the 0.25 micron rule, and currently entered the mass production phase on the 0.18 micron rule. Engineers have started investigation on the 0.10 micron rule or less, with the trend toward a finer pattern rule being accelerated.

          For ArF laser (193 nm), it is expected to enable  
35           miniaturization of the design rule to 0.13  $\mu\text{m}$  or less. Since conventionally used novolac resins and polyvinylphenol resins have very strong absorption in proximity to 193 nm, they

cannot be used as the base resin for resists. To ensure transparency and dry etching resistance, some engineers investigated acrylic and alicyclic (typically cycloolefin) resins as disclosed in JP-A 9-73173, JP-A 10-10739, JP-A 9-230595 and WO 97/33198.

With respect to  $F_2$  laser (157 nm) which is expected to enable further miniaturization to 0.10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less, more difficulty arises in insuring transparency because it was found that acrylic resins which are used as the base resin for ArF are not transmissive to light at all and those cycloolefin resins having carbonyl bonds have strong absorption. It was also found that poly(vinyl phenol) which is used as the base resin for KrF has a window for absorption in proximity to 160 nm, so the transmittance is somewhat improved, but far below the practical level.

Since carbonyl groups and carbon-to-carbon double bonds have absorption in proximity to 157 nm as mentioned above, reducing the number of such units is contemplated to be one effective way for improving transmittance. It was recently found that the transmittance in the  $F_2$  region is outstandingly improved by introducing fluorine atoms into base polymers.

It was reported in SPIE 2001; Proceedings 4345-31, "Polymer design for 157 nm chemically amplified resists" that in resist compositions comprising a copolymer of tert-butyl  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylacrylate with 5-(2-hydroxy-2,2-bistrifluoromethyl)ethyl-2-norbornene and a copolymer of tert-butyl  $\alpha$ -trifluoromethylacrylate with 4-(2-hydroxy-2,2-bistrifluoromethyl)methylstyrene, the absorbance of the polymer at 157 nm is improved to about 3. However, these resins are still insufficient in transparency because it is believed that an absorbance of 2 or less is necessary to form a rectangular pattern at a film thickness of at least 2,000 Å through  $F_2$  exposure.

The inventor found that incorporating fluorinated vinyl sulfonate units into the above-described

$\alpha$ -trifluoromethylacrylate polymers improves the transparency while maintaining the substrate adhesion and developer affinity of the resins. These systems still have an absorbance of approximately 2.

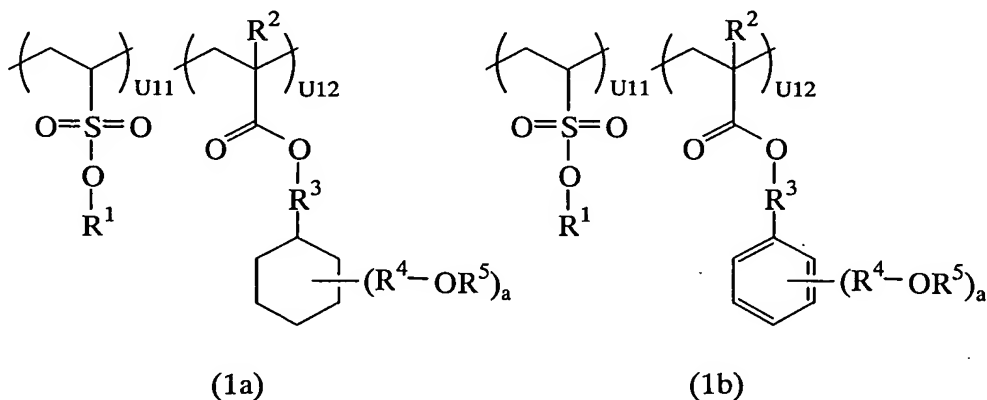
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### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the invention is to provide a novel polymer having a high transmittance to vacuum ultraviolet radiation of up to 300 nm, especially  $F_2$  (157 nm),  $Kr_2$  (146 nm),  $KrAr$  (134 nm) and  $Ar_2$  (126 nm) laser beams, and useful as the base resin in a resist composition. Another object is to provide a resist composition, especially a chemical amplification resist composition, comprising the polymer, and a patterning process using the same.

15 It has been found that when a polymer comprising units having a fluorinated alkyl group introduced on a sulfonate side chain is used as a base resin, the resulting resist composition, especially chemically amplified resist composition is drastically improved in contrast and adhesion without detracting from transparency.

20 In a first aspect, the present invention provides a polymer comprising recurring units of the following general formula (1a) or (1b) and having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 500,000.

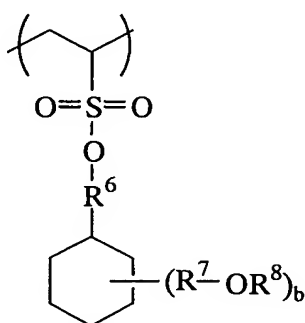


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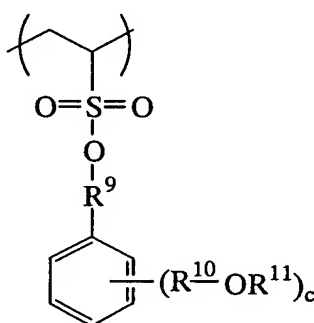
Herein  $R^1$  is an acid labile group, an adhesive group or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may contain a hydrophilic group such as

hydroxyl,  $R^2$  is hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  each are a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $R^5$  is hydrogen or an acid labile group, "a" is 1 or 2, U11 and U12 are numbers satisfying  $0 < U11 < 1$  and  $0 < U12 < 1$ .

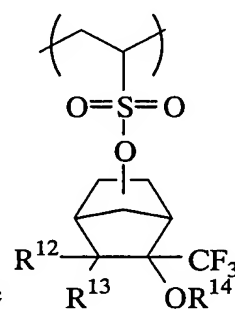
The sulfonate units included in the formulae (1a) and (1b) are preferably selected from the following general formulae (2a) to (2f).



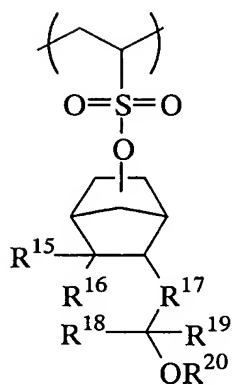
(2a)



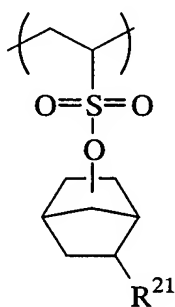
(2b)



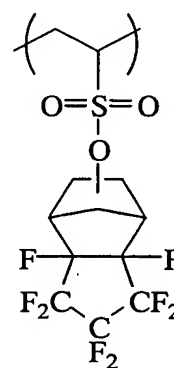
(2c)



(2d)



(2e)



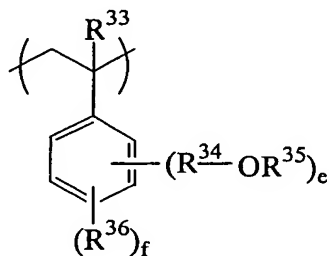
(2f)

Herein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{17}$  each are a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $R^8$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{20}$  each are hydrogen or an acid labile group,  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{18}$  and  $R^{19}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at



Herein  $R^{28}$  is as defined above,  $R^{29}$  to  $R^{32}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine or an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, at least either one of  $R^{29}$  and  $R^{30}$  contains at least one fluorine atom, and at least either one of  $R^{31}$  and  $R^{32}$  contains at least one fluorine atom.

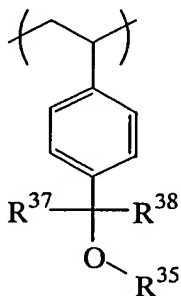
In a preferred embodiment, the polymer further comprises recurring units of the following general formula (4).



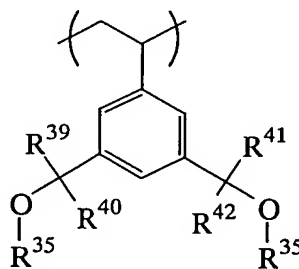
(4)

Herein  $R^{33}$  is hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $R^{34}$  is a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $R^{35}$  is hydrogen or an acid labile group,  $R^{36}$  is fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms,  $e$  is 1 or 2, and  $f$  is an integer of 0 to 4, satisfying  $1 \leq e+f \leq 5$ .

More preferably, the recurring units of formula (4) have the following formula (4a) or (4b).



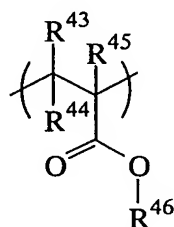
(4a)



(4b)

Herein R<sup>35</sup> is as defined above, R<sup>37</sup> to R<sup>42</sup> each are hydrogen, fluorine or an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, at least either one of R<sup>37</sup> and R<sup>38</sup> contains at least one fluorine atom, at least either one of R<sup>39</sup> and R<sup>40</sup> contains at least one fluorine atom, and at least either one of R<sup>41</sup> and R<sup>42</sup> contains at least one fluorine atom.

In a preferred embodiment, the polymer further comprises recurring units of the following general formula (5).



Herein R<sup>43</sup> to R<sup>45</sup> each are hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and R<sup>46</sup> is hydrogen, an acid labile group, an adhesive group or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may contain a hydrophilic group such as hydroxyl. Most often R<sup>46</sup> is trifluoromethyl.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides a resist composition comprising the polymer defined above, and specifically a chemically amplified positive resist composition comprising (A) the polymer defined above, (B) an organic solvent, and (C) a photoacid generator. The resist composition may further comprise (D) a basic compound and/or (E) a dissolution inhibitor.

In a third aspect, the present invention provides a process for forming a pattern comprising the steps of applying the above resist composition onto a substrate to form a coating; heat treating the coating and then exposing it to high-energy radiation in a wavelength band of 100 to 180 nm or 1 to 30 nm through a photomask; and optionally heat

treating the exposed coating and developing it with a developer. The high-energy radiation is typically an F<sub>2</sub> laser beam, Ar<sub>2</sub> laser beam or soft x-ray.

5                    DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Polymer

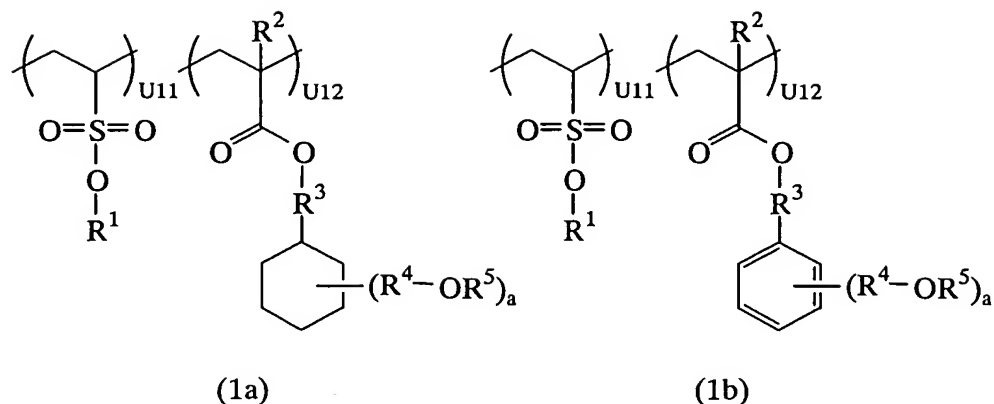
For improving the transmittance in proximity to 157 nm, reducing the number of carbonyl groups and/or carbon-to-carbon double bonds is contemplated to be one  
10 effective way. It was also found that introducing fluorine atoms into base polymers makes a great contribution to improved transmittance. In fact, poly(vinyl phenol) having fluorine introduced in its aromatic rings has an improved transmittance (see JP-A 2001-146505). However, this base  
15 polymer was found to turn to be negative upon exposure to high-energy radiation as from an F<sub>2</sub> laser, interfering with its use as a practical resist.

In contrast, those polymers obtained by introducing fluorine into acrylic resins or polymers containing in their  
20 backbone an alicyclic compound originating from a norbornene derivative were found to have a high transparency and eliminate the negative turning problem. However, an increased rate of introduction of fluorine into a resin to enhance the transparency thereof tends to compromise the  
25 adhesion of resin to substrate or the penetration of a developer.

It has been found that by introducing into highly transparent fluorinated acrylic polymers sulfonate units having a relatively high transmittance at about 157 nm and  
30 improved substrate adhesion and developer penetration, the above-mentioned drawbacks are overcome without detracting from transparency.

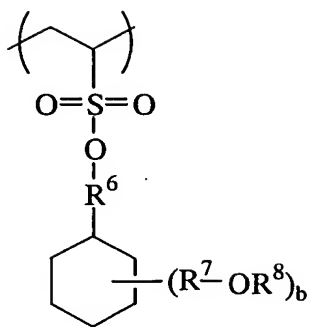
Specifically, using a polymer having introduced therein units represented by the general formula (1a) or  
35 (1b), a resist composition is obtained which is improved in substrate adhesion and developer penetration while maintaining transparency at 157 nm.



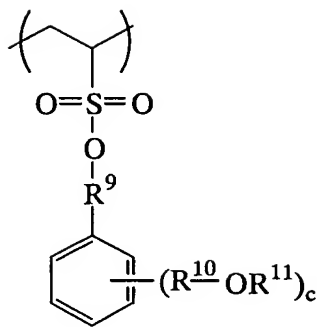


Herein  $\text{R}^1$  is an acid labile group, an adhesive group or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may contain a hydrophilic group such as hydroxyl.  $\text{R}^2$  is hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $\text{R}^3$  and  $\text{R}^4$  each are a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $\text{R}^5$  is hydrogen or an acid labile group. The subscript "a" is 1 or 2, U11 and U12 are numbers satisfying  $0 < \text{U11} < 1$  and  $0 < \text{U12} < 1$ .

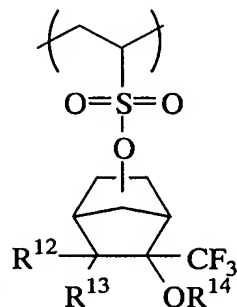
The sulfonate units included in the formulae (1a) and (1b) are preferably selected from the following general formulae (2a) to (2f).



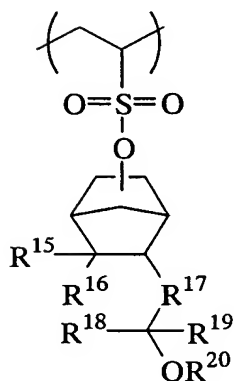
(2a)



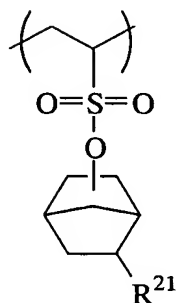
(2b)



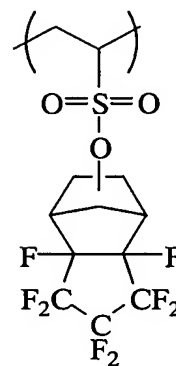
(2c)



(2d)



(2e)

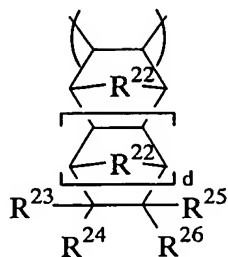


(2f)

Herein  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^9$ ,  $R^{10}$  and  $R^{17}$  each are a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $R^8$ ,  $R^{11}$ ,  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{20}$  each are hydrogen or an acid labile group.  $R^{12}$ ,  $R^{13}$ ,  $R^{15}$ ,  $R^{16}$ ,  $R^{18}$  and  $R^{19}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of  $R^{18}$  and  $R^{19}$  containing at least one fluorine atom.  $R^{21}$  is a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms. Each of  $b$  and  $c$  is 1 or 2.

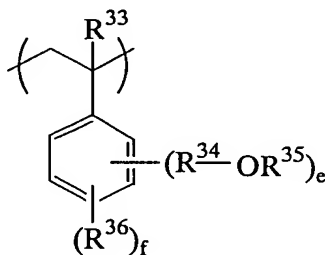
While the polymer or high molecular weight compound of the invention is defined as comprising recurring units of the general formula (1a) or (1b), recurring units of the general formula (3) and/or recurring units of the general formula (4) and/or recurring units of the general formula (5) are preferably incorporated in order to improve the dissolution

contrast, substrate adhesion, dry etching resistance and other properties of the resist.



(3)

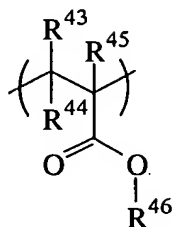
Herein  $R^{22}$  is a methylene group, oxygen atom or sulfur atom.  $R^{23}$  to  $R^{26}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine,  $-R^{27}-OR^{28}$ ,  $-R^{27}-CO_2R^{28}$  or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, at least one of  $R^{23}$  to  $R^{26}$  containing  $-R^{27}-OR^{28}$  or  $-R^{27}-CO_2R^{28}$ .  $R^{27}$  is a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $R^{28}$  is hydrogen, an acid labile group, adhesive group or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may contain a hydrophilic group such as hydroxyl. The subscript  $d$  is 0 or 1.



(4)

Herein  $R^{33}$  is hydrogen, fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $R^{34}$  is a single bond or a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene or fluorinated alkylene group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $R^{35}$  is hydrogen or an acid labile group.  $R^{36}$  is fluorine or a straight, branched or cyclic fluorinated alkyl

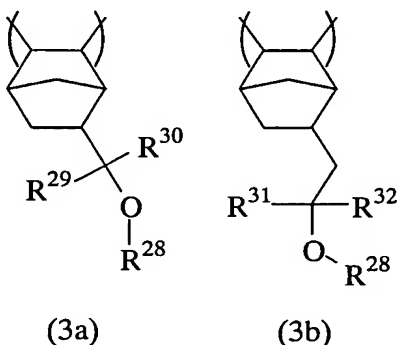
group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms. The subscript e is 1 or 2,  
and f is an integer of 0 to 4, satisfying  $1 \leq e+f \leq 5$ .



(5)

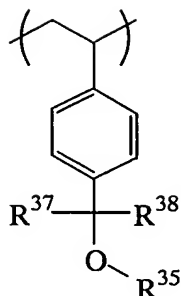
Herein  $R^{43}$  to  $R^{45}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine or a  
5 straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group  
of 1 to 20 carbon atoms.  $R^{46}$  is hydrogen, an acid labile  
group, an adhesive group or a straight, branched or cyclic  
fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may  
contain a hydrophilic group such as hydroxyl. Preferably,  $R^{45}$   
10 is trifluoromethyl.

The preferred recurring units of formula (3) are units  
of the following general formula (3a) or (3b).

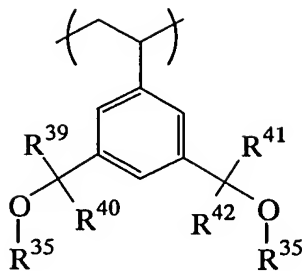


Herein  $R^{28}$  is as defined above.  $R^{29}$  to  $R^{32}$  each are hydrogen,  
15 fluorine or an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 4  
carbon atoms, at least either one of  $R^{29}$  and  $R^{30}$  contains at  
least one fluorine atom, and at least either one of  $R^{31}$  and  
 $R^{32}$  contains at least one fluorine atom.

The preferred recurring units of formula (4) are units  
20 of the following formula (4a) or (4b).



(4a)

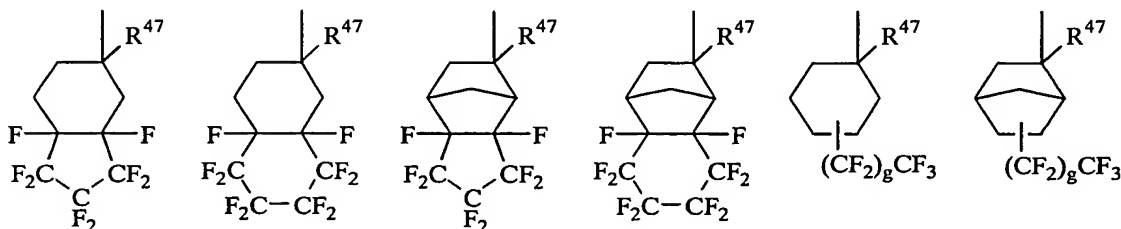


(4b)

Herein  $R^{35}$  is as defined above.  $R^{37}$  to  $R^{42}$  each are hydrogen, fluorine or an alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, at least either one of  $R^{37}$  and  $R^{38}$  contains at least one fluorine atom, at least either one of  $R^{39}$  and  $R^{40}$  contains at least one fluorine atom, and at least either one of  $R^{41}$  and  $R^{42}$  contains at least one fluorine atom.

More particularly, suitable straight, branched or cyclic alkyl groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms include, but are not limited to, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 2-ethylhexyl, n-octyl, 2-adamantyl, and (2-adamantyl)methyl, with those of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, especially 1 to 10 carbon atoms being preferred.

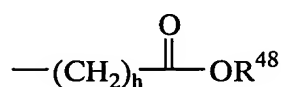
The fluorinated alkyl groups correspond to the foregoing alkyl groups in which some or all of the hydrogen atoms are replaced by fluorine atoms. Examples include, but are not limited to, trifluoromethyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, 3,3,3-trifluoropropyl, 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropyl, and 1,1,2,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropyl as well as groups of the following formulae.



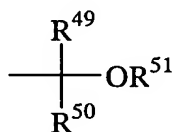
Herein, R<sup>47</sup> is a hydrogen atom, a fluorine atom or a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms, and g is an integer of 0 to 5.

Suitable straight, branched or cyclic alkylene groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms correspond to the foregoing alkyl groups with one hydrogen atom eliminated. Suitable fluorinated alkylene groups are similar alkylene groups which are partially or entirely substituted with fluorine atoms.

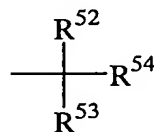
The acid labile groups represented by R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>20</sup>, R<sup>28</sup>, R<sup>35</sup> and R<sup>46</sup> are selected from a variety of such groups, preferably from among the groups of the following formulae (6) to (8).



(6)



(7)



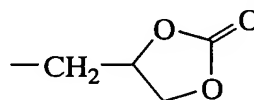
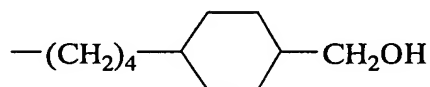
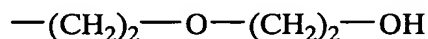
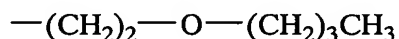
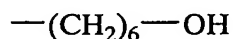
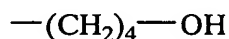
(8)

In formula (6), R<sup>48</sup> is a tertiary alkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms, preferably 4 to 15 carbon atoms, or an oxoalkyl group of 4 to 20 carbon atoms. Suitable tertiary alkyl groups include tert-butyl, tert-amyl, 1,1-diethylpropyl, 1-ethylcyclopentyl, 1-butylcyclopentyl, 1-ethylcyclohexyl, 1-butylcyclohexyl, 1-ethyl-2-cyclopentenyl, 1-ethyl-2-cyclohexenyl, and 2-methyl-2-adamantyl. Suitable oxoalkyl groups include 3-oxocyclohexyl, 4-methyl-2-oxooxan-4-yl, and 5-methyl-5-oxooxolan-4-yl. Letter h is an integer of 0 to 6.

Illustrative, non-limiting, examples of the acid labile group of formula (6) include tert-butoxycarbonyl, tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl, tert-amylloxycarbonyl, tert-amylloxycarbonylmethyl, 1,1-diethylpropyloxycarbonyl, 1,1-diethylpropyloxycarbonylmethyl, 1-ethylcyclopentyloxycarbonyl, 1-ethylcyclopentyloxycarbonylmethyl, 1-ethyl-2-cyclopentenylloxycarbonyl,

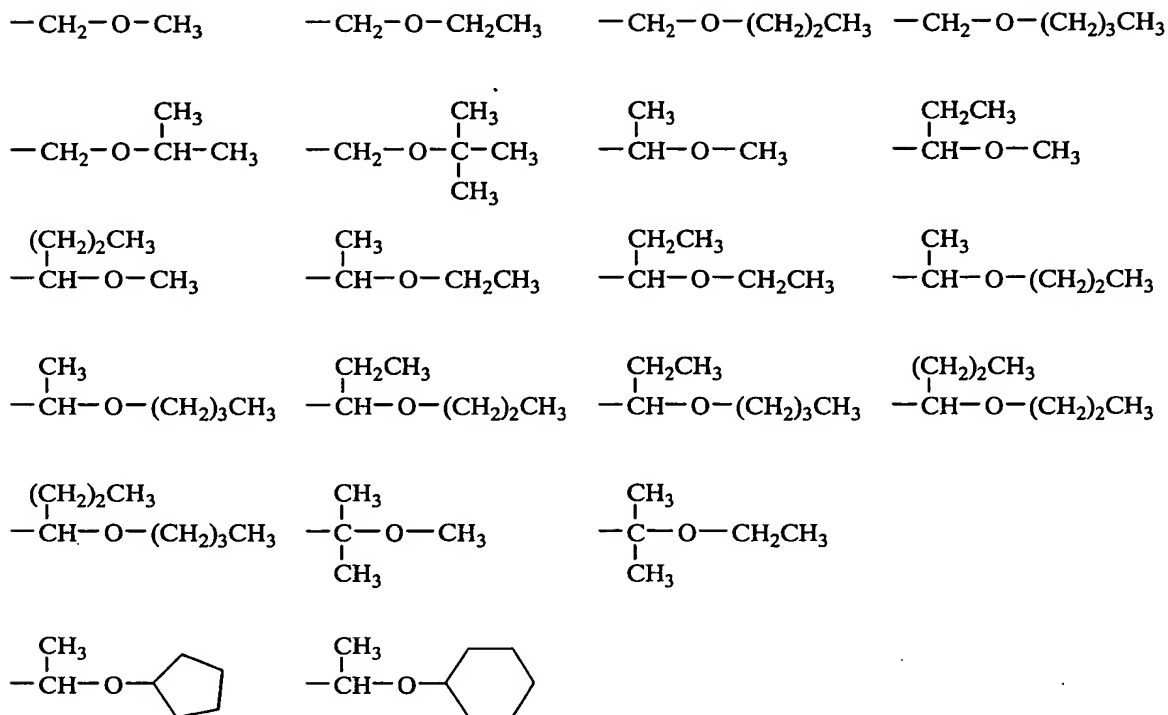
1-ethyl-2-cyclopentenylloxycarbonylmethyl,  
 1-ethoxyethoxycarbonylmethyl,  
 2-tetrahydropyranyloxycarbonylmethyl, and  
 2-tetrahydrofuranyloxycarbonylmethyl groups.

5 In formula (7),  $R^{49}$  and  $R^{50}$  are hydrogen or straight,  
 branched or cyclic alkyl groups of 1 to 18 carbon atoms,  
 preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, for example, methyl, ethyl,  
 propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl,  
 cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, 2-ethylhexyl and n-octyl.  $R^{51}$  is a  
 10 monovalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms,  
 preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, which may contain a hetero  
 atom such as oxygen, for example, straight, branched or  
 cyclic alkyl groups and substituted ones of these alkyl  
 groups in which some hydrogen atoms are substituted with  
 15 hydroxyl, alkoxy, oxo, amino or alkylamino groups. Exemplary  
 substituted alkyl groups are shown below.



A pair of  $R^{49}$  and  $R^{50}$ , a pair of  $R^{49}$  and  $R^{51}$ , or a pair of  
 $R^{50}$  and  $R^{51}$  may bond together to form a ring. Each of  $R^{49}$ ,  $R^{50}$   
 20 and  $R^{51}$  is a straight or branched alkylene group of 1 to 18  
 carbon atoms, preferably 1 to 10 carbon atoms, when they form  
 a ring.

Of the acid labile groups of formula (7), straight or  
 branched ones are exemplified by the following groups.



Of the acid labile groups of formula (7), cyclic ones are exemplified by tetrahydrofuran-2-yl,

- 5 2-methyltetrahydrofuran-2-yl, tetrahydropyran-2-yl, and 2-methyltetrahydropyran-2-yl.

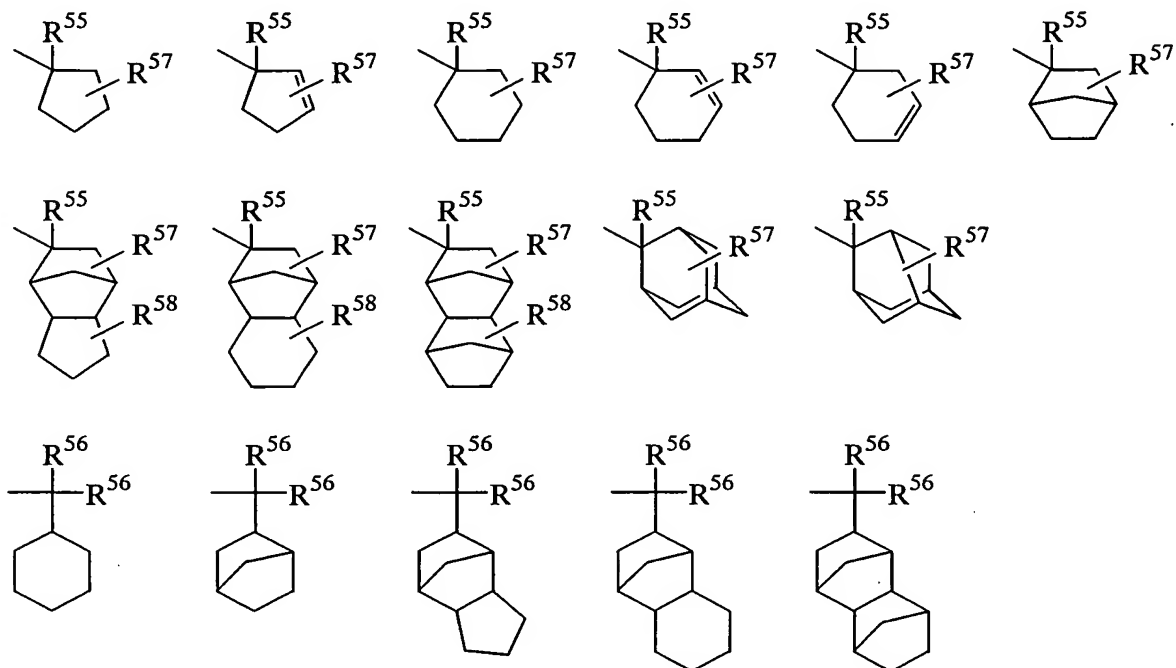
Of the groups of formula (7), ethoxyethyl, butoxyethyl and ethoxypropyl are preferred.

- 10 In formula (8),  $\text{R}^{52}$ ,  $\text{R}^{53}$  and  $\text{R}^{54}$  each are a monovalent hydrocarbon group, typically a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which may contain a hetero atom such as oxygen, sulfur, nitrogen or fluorine. A pair of  $\text{R}^{52}$  and  $\text{R}^{53}$ ,  $\text{R}^{52}$  and  $\text{R}^{54}$ , and  $\text{R}^{53}$  and  $\text{R}^{54}$ , taken together, may form a ring with the carbon atom to which they are
- 15 bonded.

- Examples of the tertiary alkyl group represented by formula (8) include tert-butyl, triethylcarbyl, 1-ethylnorbornyl, 1-methylcyclohexyl, 1-ethylcyclopentyl, 2-(2-methyl)adamantyl, 2-(2-ethyl)adamantyl, tert-amyl,
- 20 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-methyl-isopropyl, and



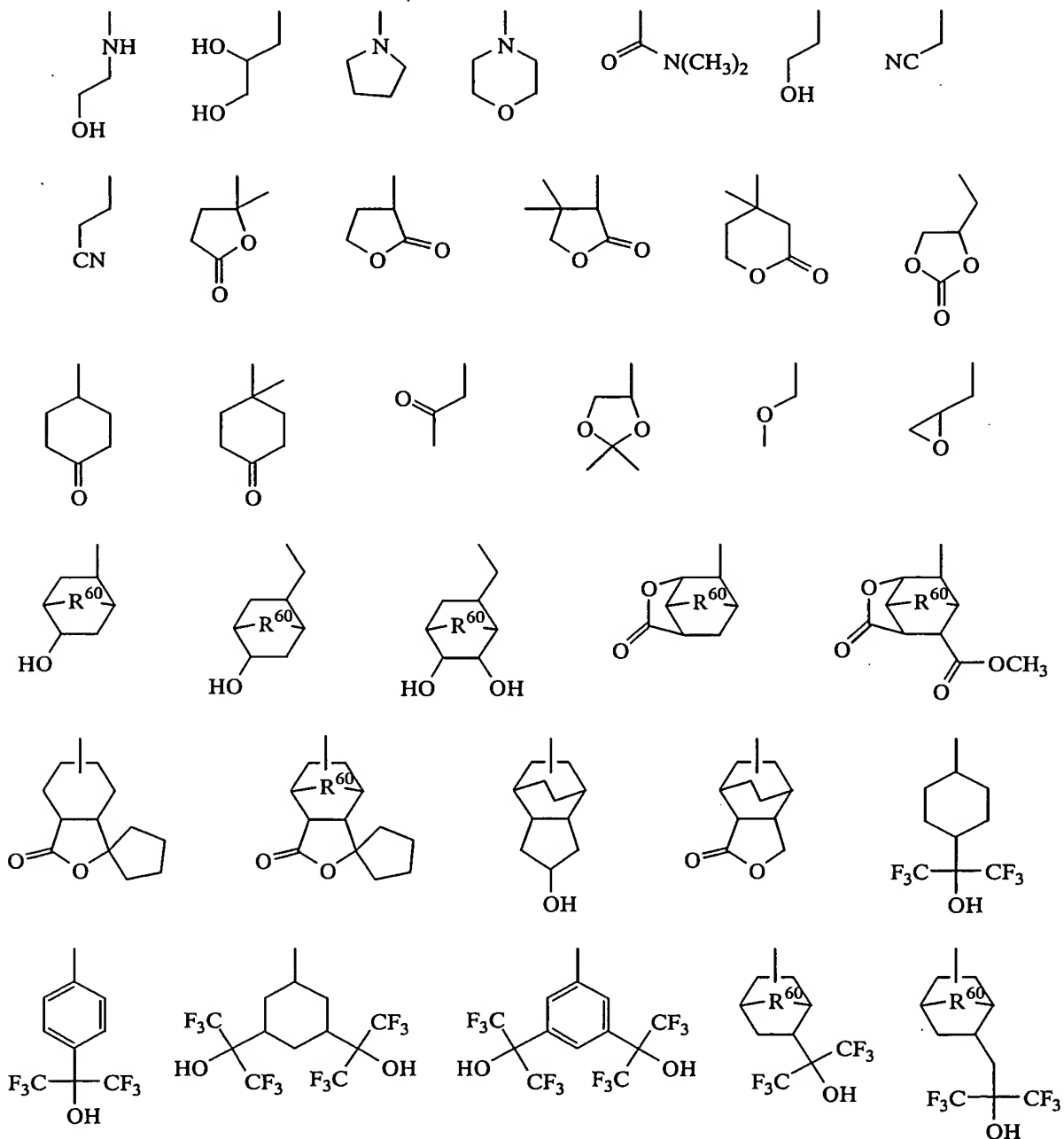
1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-cyclohexyl-isopropyl as well as the groups shown below.



Herein,  $R^{55}$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.  $R^{56}$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, such as ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl. Each of  $R^{57}$  and  $R^{58}$  is hydrogen, a monovalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may contain a hetero atom, or a monovalent hydrocarbon group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms which may be separated by a hetero atom. These groups may be straight, branched or cyclic. The hetero atom is typically selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen atoms and may be contained or intervene in the form of  $-OH$ ,  $-OR^{59}$ ,  $-O-$ ,  $-S-$ ,  $-S(=O)-$ ,  $-NH_2$ ,  $-NHR^{59}$ ,  $-N(R^{59})_2$ ,  $-NH-$  or  $-NR^{59}-$  wherein  $R^{59}$  is a  $C_{1-5}$  alkyl group. Examples of  $R^{57}$  and  $R^{58}$  groups include methyl, hydroxymethyl, ethyl, hydroxyethyl, propyl,

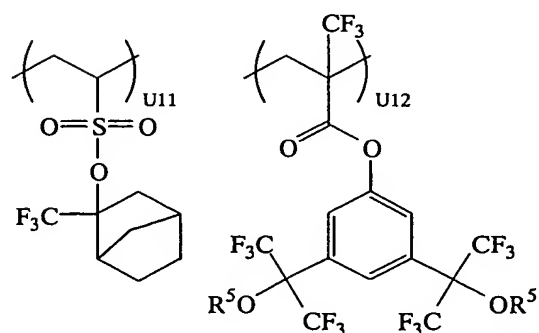
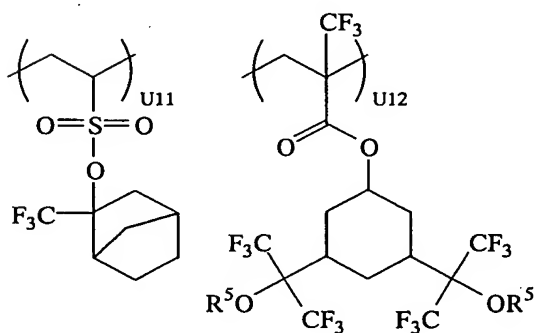
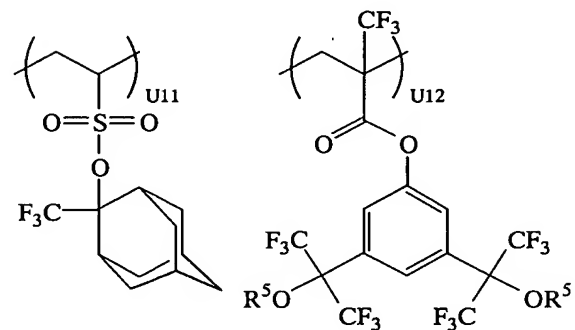
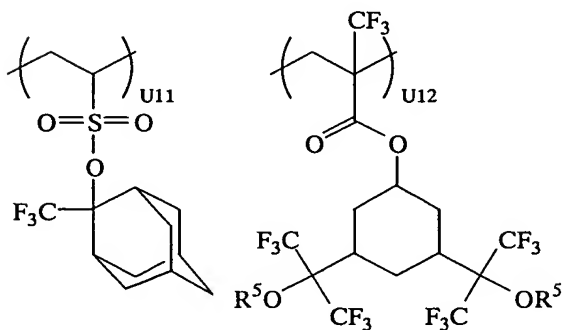
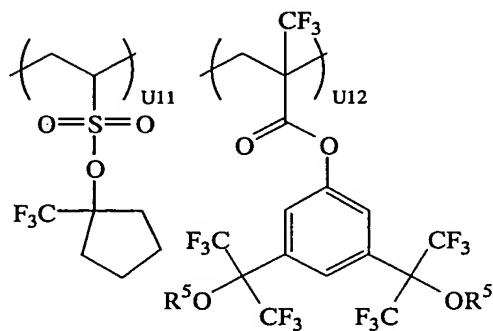
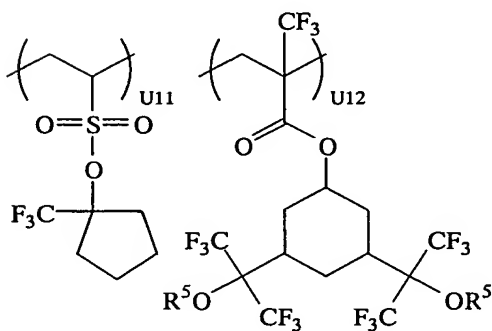
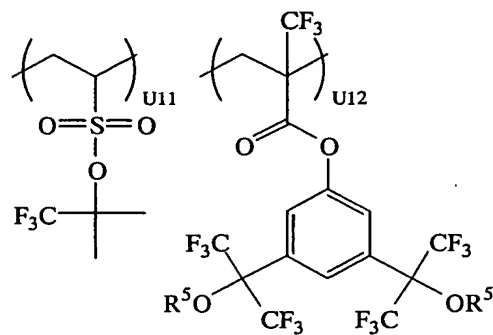
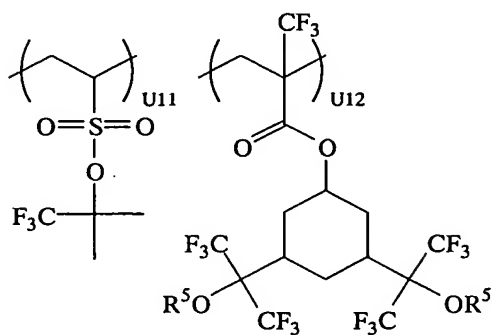
isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, n-pentyl, n-hexyl, methoxy, methoxymethoxy, ethoxy and tert-butoxy.

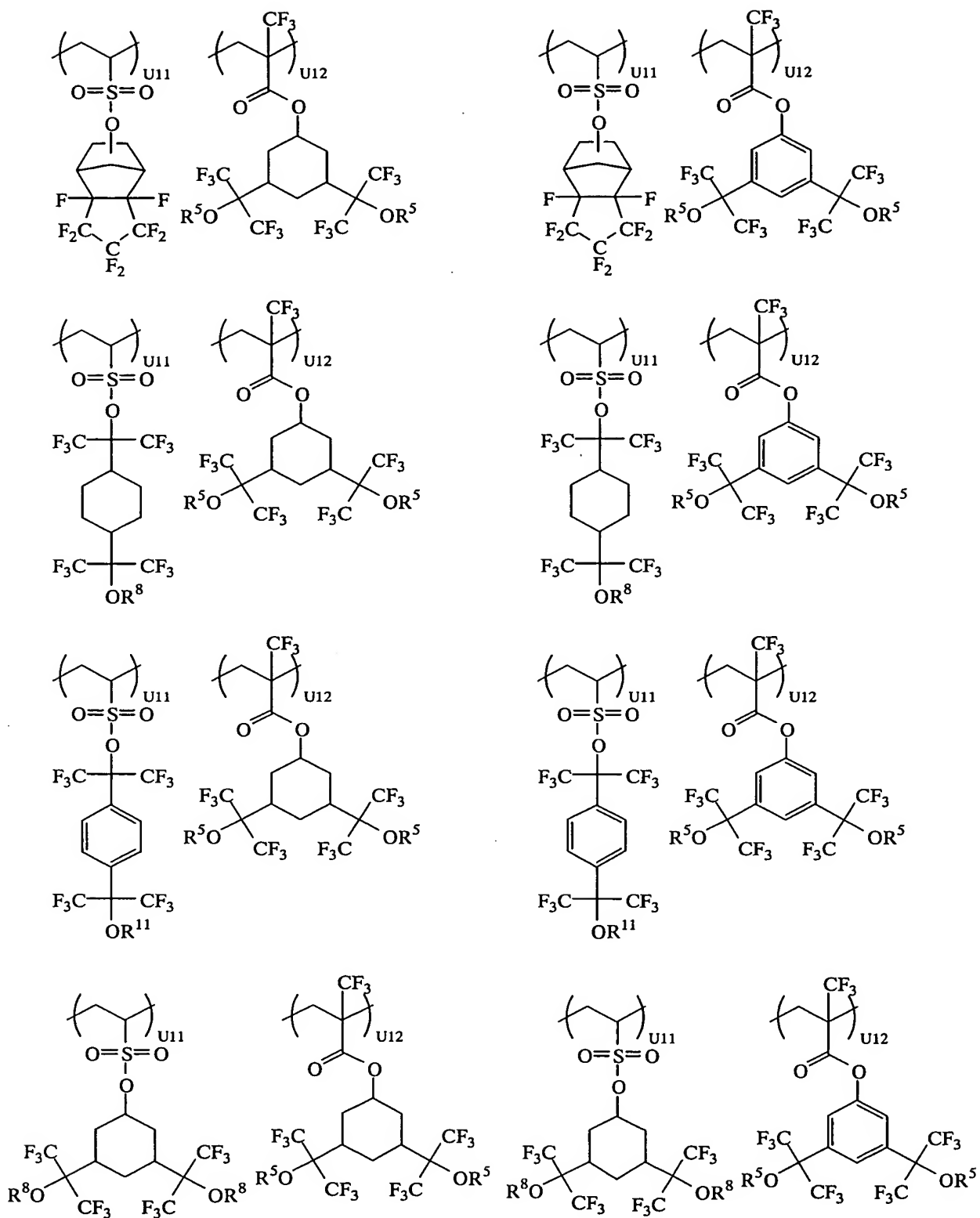
Next, the adhesive groups represented by  $R^1$ ,  $R^{28}$  and  $R^{46}$  are selected from a variety of such groups, preferably from  
5 among the groups of the following formulae.

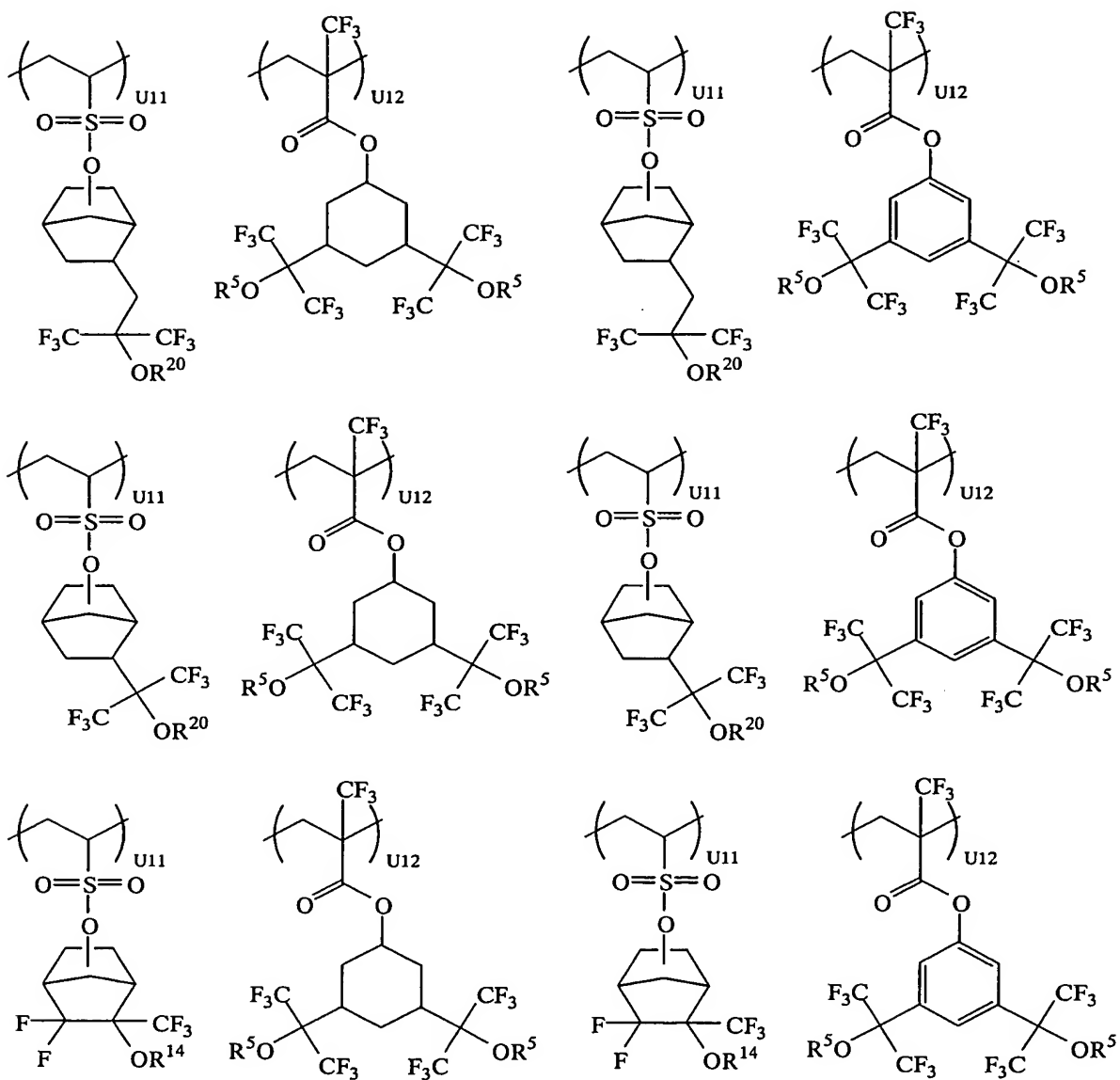


Herein,  $R^{60}$  is a methylene group, oxygen atom or sulfur atom.

Illustrative examples of polymers comprising units of formula (1a) or (1b) are given below, though not limited thereto.

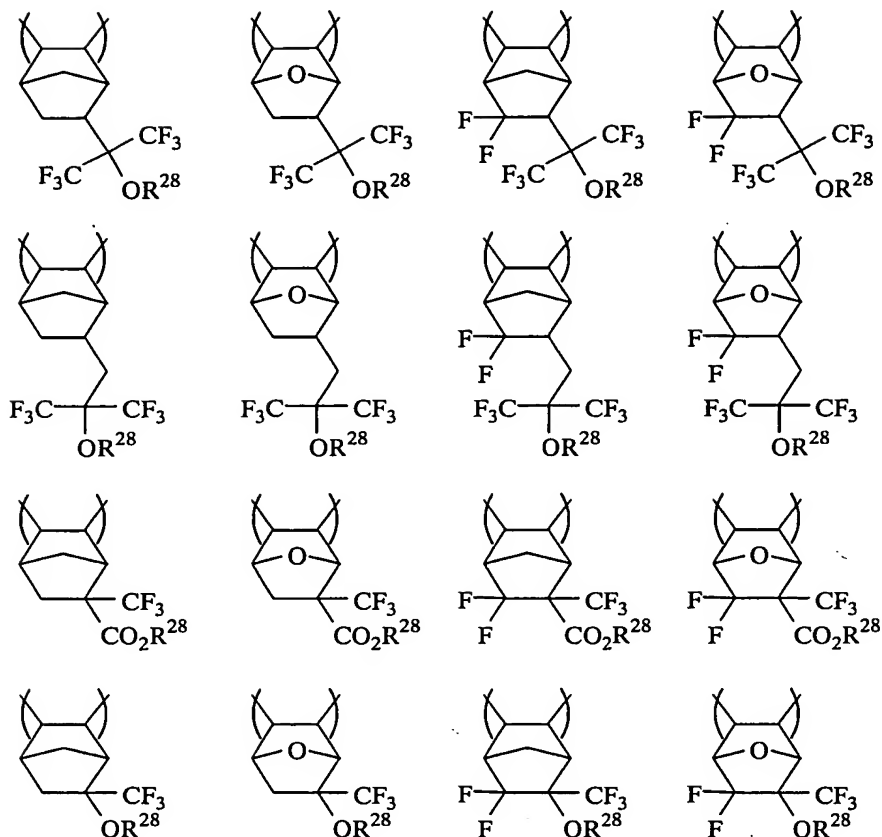






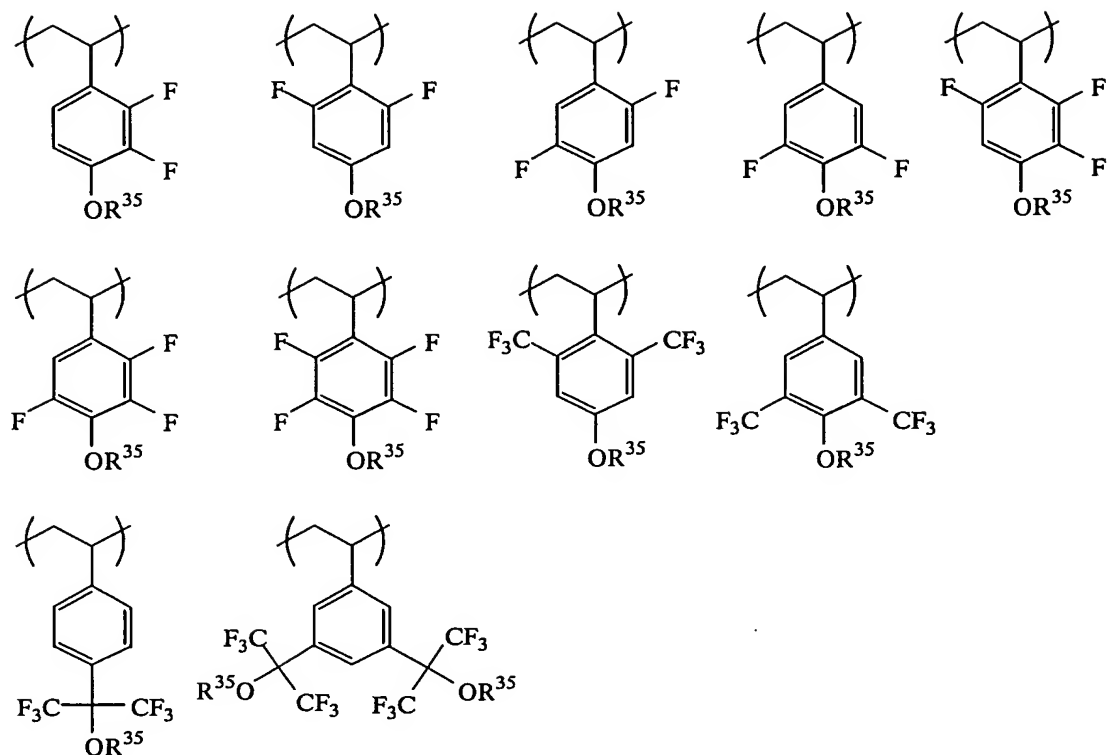
Herein  $\text{R}^5$ ,  $\text{R}^8$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $\text{R}^{20}$ , U11 and U12 are as defined above.

- 5 Illustrative examples of the units of formulae (3), (3a) and (3b) are given below, though not limited thereto.



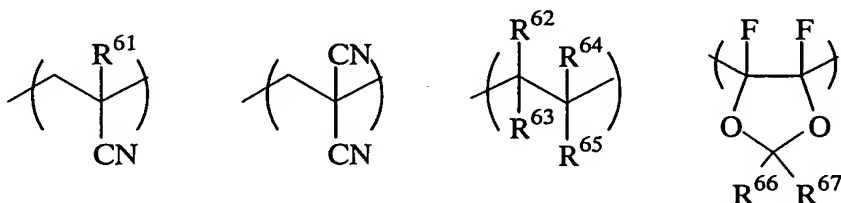
Herein  $\text{R}^{28}$  is as defined above.

Illustrative examples of the units of formulae (4),  
 5 (4a) and (4b) are given below, though not limited thereto.



Herein R<sup>35</sup> is as defined above.

Besides, units as shown below may be incorporated in the inventive polymers for the purpose of improving substrate adhesion and transparency.



Herein, R<sup>61</sup> to R<sup>65</sup> each are hydrogen, fluorine or a fluorinated alkyl group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and at least one of R<sup>61</sup> to R<sup>65</sup> contains at least one fluorine atom. R<sup>66</sup> and R<sup>67</sup> each are hydrogen, methyl or trifluoromethyl.

In the inventive polymers wherein U3 represents units of formulae (3), (3a) and (3b), U4 represents units of formulae (4), (4a) and (4b), U5 represents units of formula (5), and U6 represents adhesive and transparent units other

than the foregoing, and  $U_{11} + U_{12} + U_3 + U_4 + U_5 + U_6 = 1$ ,  
U's are preferably in the range:

$0 < U_{11} \leq 0.9$ , more preferably  $0.1 \leq U_{11} \leq 0.5$ ,

$0 < U_{12} \leq 0.9$ , more preferably  $0.1 \leq U_{12} \leq 0.5$ ,

5  $0 \leq U_3 \leq 0.6$ , more preferably  $0 \leq U_3 \leq 0.4$ ,

$0 \leq U_4 \leq 0.6$ , more preferably  $0 \leq U_4 \leq 0.4$ ,

$0 \leq U_5 \leq 0.7$ , more preferably  $0 \leq U_5 \leq 0.5$ , and

$0 \leq U_6 \leq 0.4$ , more preferably  $0 \leq U_6 \leq 0.2$ .

The polymers of the invention are generally  
10 synthesized by dissolving monomers corresponding to the  
respective units of formulae (1a), (1b), (2a) to (2f), (3),  
(3a), (3b), (4), (4a), (4b) and (5) and optionally, an  
adhesion-improving monomer, a transparency-improving monomer  
and the like in a solvent, adding a catalyst thereto, and  
15 effecting polymerization reaction while heating or cooling  
the system if necessary. The polymerization reaction depends  
on the type of initiator or catalyst, trigger means  
(including light, heat, radiation and plasma), and  
polymerization conditions (including temperature, pressure,  
20 concentration, solvent, and additives). Commonly used for  
preparation of the polymers of the invention are radical  
copolymerization of triggering polymerization with initiators  
such as 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile (AIBN) or the like, and  
ion (anion) polymerization using catalysts such as alkyl  
25 lithium. These polymerization steps may be carried out in  
their conventional manner.

The radical polymerization initiator used herein is  
not critical. Exemplary initiators include azo compounds  
such as AIBN, 2,2'-azobis(4-methoxy-2,4-dimethylvalero-  
30 nitrile), 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile), and  
2,2'-azobis(2,4,4-trimethylpentane); peroxide compounds such  
as tert-butyl peroxyvalerate, lauroyl peroxide, benzoyl  
peroxide and tert-butyl peroxy laurate; water-soluble  
initiators, for example, persulfate salts such as potassium  
35 persulfate; and redox combinations of potassium persulfate or  
peroxides such as hydrogen peroxide with reducing agents such



as sodium sulfite. The amount of the polymerization initiator used is determined as appropriate in accordance with such factors as the identity of initiator and polymerization conditions, although the amount is often in the range of about 0.001 to 5% by weight, especially about 0.01 to 2% by weight based on the total weight of monomers to be polymerized.

For the polymerization reaction, a solvent may be used. The polymerization solvent used herein is preferably one which does not interfere with the polymerization reaction. Typical solvents include ester solvents such as ethyl acetate and n-butyl acetate, ketone solvents such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and methyl isobutyl ketone, aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon solvents such as toluene, xylene and cyclohexane, alcohol solvents such as isopropyl alcohol and ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, and ether solvents such as diethyl ether, dioxane, and tetrahydrofuran. These solvents may be used alone or in admixture of two or more. Further, any of well-known molecular weight modifiers such as dodecylmercaptan may be used in the polymerization system.

The temperature of polymerization reaction varies in accordance with the identity of polymerization initiator and the boiling point of the solvent although it is often preferably in the range of about 20 to 200°C, and especially about 50 to 140°C. Any desired reactor or vessel may be used for the polymerization reaction.

From the solution or dispersion of the polymer thus obtained, the organic solvent or water serving as the reaction medium is removed by any of well-known techniques. Suitable techniques include, for example, re-precipitation followed by filtration, and heat distillation under vacuum.

Desirably the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of about 1,000 to about 500,000, and especially about 2,000 to about 100,000.

The polymer of the invention can be used as a base resin in resist compositions, specifically chemical

amplification type resist compositions, and especially chemical amplification type positive working resist compositions. It is understood that the polymer of the invention may be admixed with another polymer for the purpose of altering the dynamic properties, thermal properties, alkali solubility and other physical properties of polymer film. The type of the other polymer which can be admixed is not critical. Any of polymers known to be useful in resist use may be admixed in any desired proportion.

10 Resist composition

As long as the polymer of the invention is used as a base resin, the resist composition of the invention may be prepared using well-known components. In a preferred embodiment, the chemically amplified positive resist composition is defined as comprising (A) the above-defined polymer as a base resin, (B) an organic solvent, and (C) a photoacid generator. In the resist composition, there may be further formulated (D) a basic compound and/or (E) a dissolution inhibitor.

20 Component (B)

The organic solvent used as component (B) in the invention may be any organic solvent in which the base resin, photoacid generator, and other components are soluble. Illustrative, non-limiting, examples of the organic solvent include ketones such as cyclohexanone and methyl-2-n-amylketone; alcohols such as 3-methoxybutanol, 3-methyl-3-methoxybutanol, 1-methoxy-2-propanol, and 1-ethoxy-2-propanol; ethers such as propylene glycol monomethyl ether, ethylene glycol monomethyl ether, propylene glycol monoethyl ether, ethylene glycol monoethyl ether, propylene glycol dimethyl ether, and diethylene glycol dimethyl ether; esters such as propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate, propylene glycol monoethyl ether acetate, ethyl lactate, ethyl pyruvate, butyl acetate, methyl 3-methoxypropionate, ethyl 3-ethoxypropionate, tert-butyl acetate, tert-butyl propionate, and propylene glycol

mono-tert-butyl ether acetate; and lactones such as  $\gamma$ -butyrolactone.

Also useful are fluorinated organic solvents. Illustrative, non-limiting examples include 2-fluoroanisole, 3-fluoroanisole, 4-fluoroanisole, 2,3-difluoroanisole, 2,4-difluoroanisole, 2,5-difluoroanisole, 5,8-difluoro-1,4-benzodioxane, 2,3-difluorobenzyl alcohol, 1,3-difluoro-2-propanol, 2',4'-difluoropropiophenone, 2,4-difluorotoluene, trifluoroacetaldehyde ethyl hemiacetal, trifluoroacetamide, trifluoroethanol, 2,2,2-trifluorobutyrate, ethylheptafluoroethanol, ethyl heptafluorobutylacetate, ethyl hexafluoroglutaricmethyl, ethyl 3-hydroxy-4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate, ethyl pentafluoropropynylacetate, ethyl perfluorooctanoate, ethyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate, ethyl 4,4,4-trifluorobutyrate, ethyl 4,4,4-trifluorocrotonate, ethyl trifluoropyruvate, sec-ethyl trifluoroacetate, fluorocyclohexane, 2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluoro-1-butanol, 1,1,1,2,2,3,3-heptafluoro-7,7-dimethyl-4,6-octanedione, 1,1,1,3,5,5,5-heptafluoropentane-2,4-dione, 3,3,4,4,5,5,5-heptafluoro-2-pentanol, 3,3,4,4,5,5,5-heptafluoro-2-pentanone, isopropyl 4,4,4-trifluoroacetoacetate, methyl perfluorodecanoate, methyl perfluoro(2-methyl-3-oxahexanoate), methyl perfluorononanoate, methyl perfluorooctanoate, methyl 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropionate, methyl trifluoroacetoacetate, 1,1,1,2,2,6,6,6-octafluoro-2,4-hexanedione, 2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5-octafluoro-1-pentanol, 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluoro-1-decanol, perfluoro-2,5-dimethyl-3,6-dioxane anionic acid methyl ester, 2H-perfluoro-5-methyl-3,6-dioxanonane, 1H,1H,2H,3H,3H-perfluorononane-1,2-diol, 1H,1H,9H-perfluoro-1-nonanol, 1H,1H-perfluorooctanol, 1H,1H,2H,2H-perfluorooctanol,

2H-perfluoro-5,8,11,14-tetramethyl-3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxa-  
octadecane,  
perfluorotributylamine, perfluorotrihexylamine,  
perfluoro-2,5,8-trimethyl-3,6,9,12,15-pentaoxaoctadecane,  
5 perfluorotributylamine, perfluorotrihexylamine,  
methyl perfluoro-2,5,8-trimethyl-3,6,9-trioxadodecanoate,  
perfluorotripentylamine, perfluorotriisopropylamine,  
1H,1H,2H,3H,3H-perfluoroundecane-1,2-diol, trifluorobutanol,  
1,1,1-trifluoro-5-methyl-2,4-hexanedione,  
10 1,1,1-trifluoro-2-propanol, 3,3,3-trifluoro-1-propanol,  
1,1,1-trifluoro-2-propyl acetate,  
perfluorobutyltetrahydrofuran, perfluorodecalin,  
perfluoro(1,2-dimethylcyclohexane),  
perfluoro(1,3-dimethylcyclohexane),  
15 propylene glycol trifluoromethyl ether acetate,  
propylene glycol methyl ether trifluoromethyl acetate,  
butyl trifluoromethylacetate,  
methyl 3-trifluoromethoxypropionate, perfluorocyclohexane,  
propylene glycol trifluoromethyl ether,  
20 butyl trifluoroacetate, and  
1,1,1-trifluoro-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexanedione.

These solvents may be used alone or in combinations of  
two or more thereof. Of the above organic solvents,  
preferred are diethylene glycol dimethyl ether and  
25 1-ethoxy-2-propanol, in which the photoacid generator is most  
soluble, and propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate which  
is safe, and mixtures thereof.

The solvent is preferably used in an amount of about  
300 to 10,000 parts by weight, more preferably about 500 to  
30 5,000 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the base  
resin.

#### Component (C)

The photoacid generator is a compound capable of  
generating an acid upon exposure to high energy radiation or  
35 electron beams and includes the following:

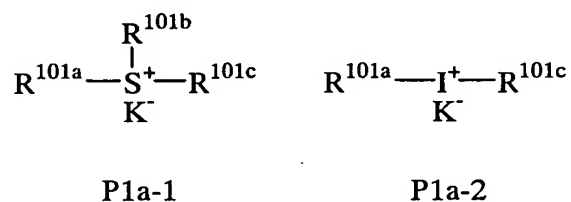
- (i) onium salts of the formula (P1a-1), (P1a-2) or (P1b),
- (ii) diazomethane derivatives of the formula (P2),

(iii) glyoxime derivatives of the formula (P3),  
 (iv) bissulfone derivatives of the formula (P4),  
 (v) sulfonic acid esters of N-hydroxyimide compounds of the  
 formula (P5),

- 5 (vi)  $\beta$ -ketosulfonic acid derivatives,  
 (vii) disulfone derivatives,  
 (viii) nitrobenzylsulfonate derivatives, and  
 (ix) sulfonate derivatives.

These photoacid generators are described in detail.

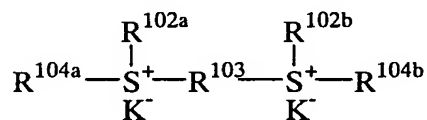
- 10 (i) Onium salts of formula (Pla-1), (Pla-2) or (Plb):



Herein,  $\text{R}^{101a}$ ,  $\text{R}^{101b}$ , and  $\text{R}^{101c}$  independently represent  
 straight, branched or cyclic alkyl, alkenyl, oxoalkyl or  
 oxoalkenyl groups of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, aryl groups of 6  
 15 to 20 carbon atoms, or aralkyl or aryloxoalkyl groups of 7 to  
 12 carbon atoms, wherein some or all of the hydrogen atoms  
 may be replaced by alkoxy or other groups. Also,  $\text{R}^{101b}$  and  
 $\text{R}^{101c}$ , taken together, may form a ring.  $\text{R}^{101b}$  and  $\text{R}^{101c}$  each are  
 alkylene groups of 1 to 6 carbon atoms when they form a ring.  
 20  $\text{K}^-$  is a non-nucleophilic counter ion.

$\text{R}^{101a}$ ,  $\text{R}^{101b}$ , and  $\text{R}^{101c}$  may be the same or different and  
 are illustrated below. Exemplary alkyl groups include methyl,  
 ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl,  
 pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl,  
 25 cycloheptyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 4-methylcyclohexyl,  
 cyclohexylmethyl, norbornyl, and adamantyl. Exemplary  
 alkenyl groups include vinyl, allyl, propenyl, butenyl,  
 hexenyl, and cyclohexenyl. Exemplary oxoalkyl groups include  
 2-oxocyclopentyl and 2-oxocyclohexyl as well as 2-oxopropyl,  
 30 2-cyclopentyl-2-oxoethyl, 2-cyclohexyl-2-oxoethyl, and  
 2-(4-methylcyclohexyl)-2-oxoethyl. Exemplary aryl groups  
 include phenyl and naphthyl; alkoxyphenyl groups such as

p-methoxyphenyl, m-methoxyphenyl, o-methoxyphenyl, ethoxyphenyl, p-tert-butoxyphenyl, and m-tert-butoxyphenyl; alkylphenyl groups such as 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, ethylphenyl, 4-tert-butylphenyl, 4-butylphenyl, and dimethylphenyl; alkylnaphthyl groups such as methylnaphthyl and ethylnaphthyl; alkoxy-naphthyl groups such as methoxy-naphthyl and ethoxy-naphthyl; dialkylnaphthyl groups such as dimethylnaphthyl and diethylnaphthyl; and dialkoxy-naphthyl groups such as dimethoxy-naphthyl and diethoxy-naphthyl. Exemplary aralkyl groups include benzyl, phenylethyl, and phenethyl. Exemplary aryloxoalkyl groups are 2-aryl-2-oxoethyl groups such as 2-phenyl-2-oxoethyl, 2-(1-naphthyl)-2-oxoethyl, and 2-(2-naphthyl)-2-oxoethyl. Examples of the non-nucleophilic counter ion represented by K<sup>-</sup> include halide ions such as chloride and bromide ions, fluoroalkylsulfonate ions such as triflate, 1,1,1-trifluoroethanesulfonate, and nonafluorobutanesulfonate, arylsulfonate ions such as tosylate, benzenesulfonate, 4-fluorobenzenesulfonate, and 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluorobenzenesulfonate, and alkylsulfonate ions such as mesylate and butanesulfonate.



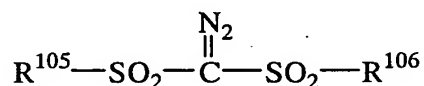
P1b

Herein, R<sup>102a</sup> and R<sup>102b</sup> independently represent straight, branched or cyclic alkyl groups of 1 to 8 carbon atoms. R<sup>103</sup> represents a straight, branched or cyclic alkylene group of 1 to 10 carbon atoms. R<sup>104a</sup> and R<sup>104b</sup> independently represent 2-oxoalkyl groups of 3 to 7 carbon atoms. K<sup>-</sup> is a non-nucleophilic counter ion.

Illustrative of the groups represented by R<sup>102a</sup> and R<sup>102b</sup> are methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 4-methylcyclohexyl, and

cyclohexylmethyl. Illustrative of the groups represented by  $R^{103}$  are methylene, ethylene, propylene, butylene, pentylene, hexylene, heptylene, octylene, nonylene, 1,4-cyclohexylene, 1,2-cyclohexylene, 1,3-cyclopentylene, 1,4-cyclooctylene, and 1,4-cyclohexanedimethylene. Illustrative of the groups represented by  $R^{104a}$  and  $R^{104b}$  are 2-oxopropyl, 2-oxocyclopentyl, 2-oxocyclohexyl, and 2-oxocycloheptyl. Illustrative examples of the counter ion represented by  $K^+$  are the same as exemplified for formulae (PlA-1) and (PlA-2).

(ii) Diazomethane derivatives of formula (P2)

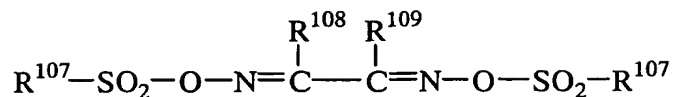


P2

Herein,  $R^{105}$  and  $R^{106}$  independently represent straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or halogenated alkyl groups of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, aryl or halogenated aryl groups of 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or aralkyl groups of 7 to 12 carbon atoms.

Of the groups represented by  $R^{105}$  and  $R^{106}$ , exemplary alkyl groups include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, pentyl, hexyl, heptyl, octyl, amyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, norbornyl, and adamantyl. Exemplary halogenated alkyl groups include trifluoromethyl, 1,1,1-trifluoroethyl, 1,1,1-trichloroethyl, and nonafluorobutyl. Exemplary aryl groups include phenyl; alkoxyphenyl groups such as p-methoxyphenyl, m-methoxyphenyl, o-methoxyphenyl, ethoxyphenyl, p-tert-butoxyphenyl, and m-tert-butoxyphenyl; and alkylphenyl groups such as 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, ethylphenyl, 4-tert-butylphenyl, 4-butylphenyl, and dimethylphenyl. Exemplary halogenated aryl groups include fluorophenyl, chlorophenyl, and 1,2,3,4,5-pentafluorophenyl. Exemplary aralkyl groups include benzyl and phenethyl.

(iii) Glyoxime derivatives of formula (P3)

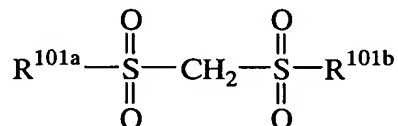


P3

Herein,  $\text{R}^{107}$ ,  $\text{R}^{108}$ , and  $\text{R}^{109}$  independently represent straight, branched or cyclic alkyl or halogenated alkyl groups of 1 to 12 carbon atoms, aryl or halogenated aryl groups of 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or aralkyl groups of 7 to 12 carbon atoms. Also,  $\text{R}^{108}$  and  $\text{R}^{109}$ , taken together, may form a ring.  $\text{R}^{108}$  and  $\text{R}^{109}$  each are straight or branched alkylene groups of 1 to 6 carbon atoms when they form a ring.

Illustrative examples of the alkyl, halogenated alkyl, aryl, halogenated aryl, and aralkyl groups represented by  $\text{R}^{107}$ ,  $\text{R}^{108}$ , and  $\text{R}^{109}$  are the same as exemplified for  $\text{R}^{105}$  and  $\text{R}^{106}$ . Examples of the alkylene groups represented by  $\text{R}^{108}$  and  $\text{R}^{109}$  include methylene, ethylene, propylene, butylene, and hexylene.

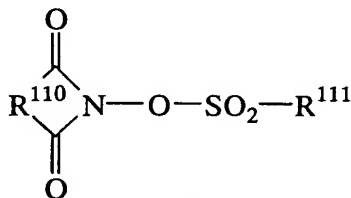
(iv) Bissulfone derivatives of formula (P4)



P4

Herein,  $\text{R}^{101a}$  and  $\text{R}^{101b}$  are as defined above.

(v) Sulfonic acid esters of N-hydroxyimide compounds of formula (P5)



P5

Herein,  $\text{R}^{110}$  is an arylene group of 6 to 10 carbon atoms, alkylene group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or alkenylene group of



2 to 6 carbon atoms wherein some or all of the hydrogen atoms may be replaced by straight or branched alkyl or alkoxy groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, acetyl, or phenyl groups.  $R^{111}$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 8 carbon atoms, alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, phenyl or naphthyl group wherein some or all of the hydrogen atoms may be replaced by alkyl or alkoxy groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, phenyl groups (which may have substituted thereon an alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, or acetyl group), hetero-aromatic groups of 3 to 5 carbon atoms, or chlorine or fluorine atoms.

Of the groups represented by  $R^{110}$ , exemplary arylene groups include 1,2-phenylene and 1,8-naphthylene; exemplary alkylene groups include methylene, ethylene, trimethylene, tetramethylene, phenylethylene, and norbornane-2,3-diyl; and exemplary alkenylene groups include 1,2-vinylene, 1-phenyl-1,2-vinylene, and 5-norbornene-2,3-diyl. Of the groups represented by  $R^{111}$ , exemplary alkyl groups are as exemplified for  $R^{101a}$  to  $R^{101c}$ ; exemplary alkenyl groups include vinyl, 1-propenyl, allyl, 1-butenyl, 3-butenyl, isoprenyl, 1-pentenyl, 3-pentenyl, 4-pentenyl, dimethylallyl, 1-hexenyl, 3-hexenyl, 5-hexenyl, 1-heptenyl, 3-heptenyl, 6-heptenyl, and 7-octenyl; and exemplary alkoxyalkyl groups include methoxymethyl, ethoxymethyl, propoxymethyl, butoxymethyl, pentyloxymethyl, hexyloxymethyl, heptyloxymethyl, methoxyethyl, ethoxyethyl, propoxyethyl, butoxyethyl, pentyloxyethyl, hexyloxyethyl, methoxypropyl, ethoxypropyl, propoxypropyl, butoxypropyl, methoxybutyl, ethoxybutyl, propoxybutyl, methoxypentyl, ethoxypentyl, methoxyhexyl, and methoxyheptyl.

Of the substituents on these groups, the alkyl groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl and tert-butyl; the alkoxy groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms include methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, isobutoxy, and tert-butoxy; the phenyl groups which may have substituted thereon an alkyl or alkoxy of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, nitro, or acetyl group

include phenyl, tolyl, p-tert-butoxyphenyl, p-acetylphenyl and p-nitrophenyl; the hetero-aromatic groups of 3 to 5 carbon atoms include pyridyl and furyl.

Illustrative examples of the photoacid generator  
5 include:

onium salts such as  
diphenyliodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)phenyliodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
diphenyliodonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
10 (p-tert-butoxyphenyl)phenyliodonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
triphenylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)diphenylsulfonium trifluoromethane-  
sulfonate,  
bis(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)phenylsulfonium trifluoromethane-  
15 sulfonate,  
tris(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)sulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
triphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)diphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
bis(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)phenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
20 tris(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)sulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
triphenylsulfonium nonafluorobutanesulfonate,  
triphenylsulfonium butanesulfonate,  
trimethylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
trimethylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
25 cyclohexylmethyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium trifluoromethane-  
sulfonate,  
cyclohexylmethyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
dimethylphenylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
dimethylphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
30 dicyclohexylphenylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
dicyclohexylphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
trinaphthylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
cyclohexylmethyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium trifluoromethane-  
sulfonate,  
35 (2-norbornyl)methyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium trifluoro-  
methanesulfonate,

ethylenebis[methyl(2-oxocyclopentyl)sulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate], and

1,2'-naphthylcarbonylmethyltetrahydrothiophenium triflate;

diazomethane derivatives such as

- 5 bis(benzenesulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(p-toluenesulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(xylenesulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(cyclohexylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(cyclopentylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- 10 bis(n-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(isobutylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(sec-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(n-propylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(isopropylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- 15 bis(tert-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(n-amylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(isoamylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(sec-amylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- bis(tert-amylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- 20 1-cyclohexylsulfonyl-1-(tert-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,
- 1-cyclohexylsulfonyl-1-(tert-amylsulfonyl)diazomethane, and
- 1-tert-amylsulfonyl-1-(tert-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane;

glyoxime derivatives such as

- bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,
- 25 bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -diphenylglyoxime,
- bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dicyclohexylglyoxime,
- bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-2,3-pentanedione-glyoxime,
- bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)-2-methyl-3,4-pentanedione-glyoxime,
- bis-O-(n-butanefulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,
- 30 bis-O-(n-butanefulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -diphenylglyoxime,
- bis-O-(n-butanefulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dicyclohexylglyoxime,
- bis-O-(n-butanefulfonyl)-2,3-pentanedione-glyoxime,
- bis-O-(n-butanefulfonyl)-2-methyl-3,4-pentanedione-glyoxime,
- bis-O-(methanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,
- 35 bis-O-(trifluoromethanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,

bis-O-(1,1,1-trifluoroethanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(tert-butanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(perfluorooctanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(cyclohexanesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 5 bis-O-(benzenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(p-fluorobenzenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(p-tert-butylbenzenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime,  
 bis-O-(xylenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime, and  
 bis-O-(camphorsulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime;  
 10       bissulfone derivatives such as  
 bisnaphthylsulfonylmethane, bistrifluoromethylsulfonylmethane,  
 bismethylsulfonylmethane, bisethylsulfonylmethane,  
 bispropylsulfonylmethane, bisisopropylsulfonylmethane,  
 bis-p-toluenesulfonylmethane, and bisbenzenesulfonylmethane;  
 15        $\beta$ -ketosulfone derivatives such as  
 2-cyclohexylcarbonyl-2-(p-toluenesulfonyl)propane and  
 2-isopropylcarbonyl-2-(p-toluenesulfonyl)propane;  
       nitrobenzyl sulfonate derivatives such as  
 2,6-dinitrobenzyl p-toluenesulfonate and  
 20 2,4-dinitrobenzyl p-toluenesulfonate;  
       sulfonic acid ester derivatives such as  
 1,2,3-tris(methanesulfonyloxy)benzene,  
 1,2,3-tris(trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)benzene, and  
 1,2,3-tris(p-toluenesulfonyloxy)benzene; and  
 25       sulfonic acid esters of N-hydroxyimides such as  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide ethanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-propanesulfonate,  
 30 N-hydroxysuccinimide 2-propanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-pentanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-octanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide p-toluenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide p-methoxybenzenesulfonate,  
 35 N-hydroxysuccinimide 2-chloroethanesulfonate,

- N-hydroxysuccinimide benzenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 2,4,6-trimethylbenzenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-naphthalenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxysuccinimide 2-naphthalenesulfonate,  
 5 N-hydroxy-2-phenylsuccinimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxymaleimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxymaleimide ethanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxy-2-phenylmaleimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxyglutarimide methanesulfonate,  
 10 N-hydroxyglutarimide benzenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxyphthalimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxyphthalimide benzenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxyphthalimide trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxyphthalimide p-toluenesulfonate,  
 15 N-hydroxynaphthalimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxynaphthalimide benzenesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxy-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxyimide methanesulfonate,  
 N-hydroxy-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxyimide trifluoromethane-  
 sulfonate, and  
 20 N-hydroxy-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxyimide p-toluenesulfonate.

- Preferred among these photoacid generators are onium  
 salts such as triphenylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
 (p-tert-butoxyphenyl)diphenylsulfonium trifluoromethane-  
 sulfonate,  
 25 tris(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)sulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
 triphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
 (p-tert-butoxyphenyl)diphenylsulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
 tris(p-tert-butoxyphenyl)sulfonium p-toluenesulfonate,  
 trinaphthylsulfonium trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
 30 cyclohexylmethyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium trifluoromethane-  
 sulfonate,  
 (2-norbornyl)methyl(2-oxocyclohexyl)sulfonium trifluoro-  
 methanesulfonate, and  
 1,2'-naphthylcarbonylmethyltetrahydrothiophenium triflate;  
 35 diazomethane derivatives such as  
 bis(benzenesulfonyl)diazomethane,  
 bis(p-toluenesulfonyl)diazomethane,

bis(cyclohexylsulfonyl)diazomethane,  
bis(n-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,  
bis(isobutylsulfonyl)diazomethane,  
bis(sec-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane,  
5 bis(n-propylsulfonyl)diazomethane,  
bis(isopropylsulfonyl)diazomethane, and  
bis(tert-butylsulfonyl)diazomethane;  
glyoxime derivatives such as  
bis-O-(p-toluenesulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime and  
10 bis-O-(n-butan sulfonyl)- $\alpha$ -dimethylglyoxime;  
bissulfone derivatives such as bisnaphthylsulfonylmethane;  
and sulfonic acid esters of N-hydroxyimide compounds such as  
N-hydroxysuccinimide methanesulfonate,  
N-hydroxysuccinimide trifluoromethanesulfonate,  
15 N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-propanesulfonate,  
N-hydroxysuccinimide 2-propanesulfonate,  
N-hydroxysuccinimide 1-pentanesulfonate,  
N-hydroxysuccinimide p-toluenesulfonate,  
N-hydroxynaphthalimide methanesulfonate, and  
20 N-hydroxynaphthalimide benzenesulfonate.

These photoacid generators may be used singly or in combinations of two or more thereof. Onium salts are effective for improving rectangularity, while diazomethane derivatives and glyoxime derivatives are effective for  
25 reducing standing waves. The combination of an onium salt with a diazomethane or a glyoxime derivative allows for fine adjustment of the profile.

The photoacid generator is added in an amount of 0.1 to 50 parts, and especially 0.5 to 40 parts by weight, per  
30 100 parts by weight of the base resin (all parts are by weight, hereinafter). Less than 0.1 part of the photoacid generator may generate a less amount of acid upon exposure, sometimes leading to a poor sensitivity and resolution whereas more than 50 parts of the photoacid generator may  
35 adversely affect transmittance and resolution.

#### Component (D)

The basic compound used as component (D) is preferably a compound capable of suppressing the rate of diffusion when the acid generated by the photoacid generator diffuses within the resist film. The inclusion of this type of basic compound holds down the rate of acid diffusion within the resist film, resulting in better resolution. In addition, it suppresses changes in sensitivity following exposure, thus reducing substrate and environment dependence, as well as improving the exposure latitude and the pattern profile.

Examples of suitable basic compounds include primary, secondary, and tertiary aliphatic amines, mixed amines, aromatic amines, heterocyclic amines, carboxyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds, sulfonyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds, hydroxyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds, hydroxyphenyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds, alcoholic nitrogenous compounds, amide derivatives, and imide derivatives.

Examples of suitable primary aliphatic amines include ammonia, methylamine, ethylamine, n-propylamine, isopropylamine, n-butylamine, isobutylamine, sec-butylamine, tert-butylamine, pentylamine, tert-amylamine, cyclopentylamine, hexylamine, cyclohexylamine, heptylamine, octylamine, nonylamine, decylamine, dodecylamine, cetylamine, methylenediamine, ethylenediamine, and tetraethylenepentamine. Examples of suitable secondary aliphatic amines include dimethylamine, diethylamine, di-n-propylamine, di-isopropylamine, di-n-butylamine, di-isobutylamine, di-sec-butylamine, dipentylamine, dicyclopentylamine, dihexylamine, dicyclohexylamine, diheptylamine, dioctylamine, dinonylamine, didecylamine, didodecylamine, dicetylamine, N,N-dimethylmethylenediamine, N,N-dimethylethylenediamine, and N,N-dimethyltetraethylenepentamine. Examples of suitable tertiary aliphatic amines include trimethylamine, triethylamine, tri-n-propylamine, tri-isopropylamine, tri-n-butylamine, tri-isobutylamine, tri-sec-butylamine, tripentylamine, tricyclopentylamine, trihexylamine,

tricyclohexylamine, triheptylamine, trioctylamine,  
trinonylamine, tridecylamine, tridodecylamine, tricetylamine,  
N,N,N',N'-tetramethylmethylenediamine,  
N,N,N',N'-tetramethylethylenediamine, and  
5 N,N,N',N'-tetramethyltetraethylenepentamine.

Examples of suitable mixed amines include  
dimethylethylamine, methylethylpropylamine, benzylamine,  
phenethylamine, and benzyldimethylamine. Examples of  
suitable aromatic amines include aniline derivatives (e.g.,  
10 aniline, N-methylaniline, N-ethylaniline, N-propylaniline,  
N,N-dimethylaniline, 2-methylaniline, 3-methylaniline,  
4-methylaniline, ethylaniline, propylaniline,  
trimethylaniline, 2-nitroaniline, 3-nitroaniline,  
4-nitroaniline, 2,4-dinitroaniline, 2,6-dinitroaniline,  
15 3,5-dinitroaniline, and N,N-dimethyltoluidine),  
diphenyl(p-tolyl)amine, methyldiphenylamine, triphenylamine,  
phenylenediamine, naphthylamine, and diaminonaphthalene.  
Examples of suitable heterocyclic amines include pyrrole  
derivatives (e.g., pyrrole, 2H-pyrrole, 1-methylpyrrole,  
20 2,4-dimethylpyrrole, 2,5-dimethylpyrrole, and  
N-methylpyrrole), oxazole derivatives (e.g., oxazole and  
isooxazole), thiazole derivatives (e.g., thiazole and  
isothiazole), imidazole derivatives (e.g., imidazole,  
4-methylimidazole, and 4-methyl-2-phenylimidazole),  
25 pyrazole derivatives, furazan derivatives,  
pyrroline derivatives (e.g., pyrroline and  
2-methyl-1-pyrroline), pyrrolidine derivatives (e.g.,  
pyrrolidine, N-methylpyrrolidine, pyrrolidinone, and  
N-methylpyrrolidone), imidazoline derivatives,  
30 imidazolidine derivatives, pyridine derivatives (e.g.,  
pyridine, methylpyridine, ethylpyridine, propylpyridine,  
butylpyridine, 4-(1-butylpentyl)pyridine, dimethylpyridine,  
trimethylpyridine, triethylpyridine, phenylpyridine,  
3-methyl-2-phenylpyridine, 4-tert-butylpyridine,  
35 diphenylpyridine, benzylpyridine, methoxypyridine,  
butoxypyridine, dimethoxypyridine, 1-methyl-2-pyridone,  
4-pyrrolidinopyridine, 1-methyl-4-phenylpyridine,



2-(1-ethylpropyl)pyridine, aminopyridine, and dimethylaminopyridine), pyridazine derivatives, pyrimidine derivatives, pyrazine derivatives, pyrazoline derivatives, pyrazolidine derivatives, 5 piperidine derivatives, piperazine derivatives, morpholine derivatives, indole derivatives, isoindole derivatives, 1H-indazole derivatives, indoline derivatives, quinoline derivatives (e.g., quinoline and 3-quinolinecarbonitrile), isoquinoline derivatives, 10 cinnoline derivatives, quinazoline derivatives, quinoxaline derivatives, phthalazine derivatives, purine derivatives, pteridine derivatives, carbazole derivatives, phenanthridine derivatives, acridine derivatives, phenazine derivatives, 15 1,10-phenanthroline derivatives, adenine derivatives, adenosine derivatives, guanine derivatives, guanosine derivatives, uracil derivatives, and uridine derivatives.

Examples of suitable carboxyl group-bearing 20 nitrogenous compounds include aminobenzoic acid, indolecarboxylic acid, and amino acid derivatives (e.g., nicotinic acid, alanine, alginine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, glycine, histidine, isoleucine, glycyllleucine, leucine, methionine, phenylalanine, threonine, lysine, 25 3-aminopyrazine-2-carboxylic acid, and methoxyalanine).

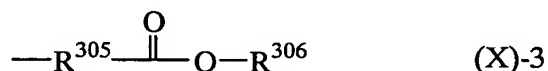
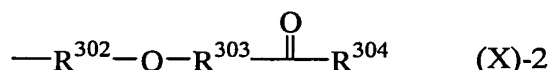
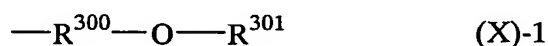
Examples of suitable sulfonyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds include 3-pyridinesulfonic acid and pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate.

Examples of suitable hydroxyl group-bearing 30 nitrogenous compounds, hydroxyphenyl group-bearing nitrogenous compounds, and alcoholic nitrogenous compounds include 2-hydroxypyridine, aminocresol, 2,4-quinolinediol, 3-indolemethanol hydrate, monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, N-ethyldiethanolamine, 35 N,N-diethylethanolamine, triisopropanolamine, 2,2'-iminodiethanol, 2-aminoethanol, 3-amino-1-propanol, 4-amino-1-butanol, 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)morpholine,

2-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyridine, 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)piperazine,  
 1-[2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethyl]piperazine, piperidine ethanol,  
 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)pyrrolidine,  
 1-(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-pyrrolidinone,  
 5 3-piperidino-1,2-propanediol, 3-pyrrolidino-1,2-propanediol,  
 8-hydroxyjulolidine, 3-quinuclidinol, 3-tropanol,  
 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidine ethanol, 1-aziridine ethanol,  
 N-(2-hydroxyethyl)phthalimide, and  
 N-(2-hydroxyethyl)isonicotinamide.

10 Examples of suitable amide derivatives include  
 formamide, N-methylformamide, N,N-dimethylformamide,  
 acetamide, N-methylacetamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide,  
 propionamide, and benzamide. Suitable imide derivatives  
 include phthalimide, succinimide, and maleimide.

15 In addition, basic compounds of the following general  
 formula (B)-1 may also be included alone or in admixture.



In the formulas, n is 1, 2 or 3. The side chain X may  
 be the same or different and is represented by the formula  
 20 (X)-1, (X)-2 or (X)-3. The side chain Y may be the same or  
 different and stands for hydrogen or a straight, branched or  
 cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms which may contain  
 an ether or hydroxyl group. Two or three X's may bond  
 together to form a ring.

In the formulas,  $R^{300}$ ,  $R^{302}$  and  $R^{305}$  are independently straight or branched alkylene groups of 1 to 4 carbon atoms;  $R^{301}$  and  $R^{304}$  are independently hydrogen, straight, branched or cyclic alkyl groups of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which may  
5 contain at least one hydroxyl group, ether, ester or lactone ring;  $R^{303}$  is a single bond or a straight or branched alkylene group of 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and  $R^{306}$  is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, which may  
10 contain at least one hydroxyl group, ether, ester or lactone ring.

Illustrative, non-limiting examples of the compounds of formula (B)-1 include tris(2-methoxymethoxyethyl)amine, tris{2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl}amine, tris{2-(2-methoxyethoxymethoxy)ethyl}amine,  
15 tris{2-(1-methoxyethoxy)ethyl}amine, tris{2-(1-ethoxyethoxy)ethyl}amine, tris{2-(1-ethoxypropoxy)ethyl}amine, tris[2-{2-(2-hydroxyethoxy)ethoxy}ethyl]amine, 4,7,13,16,21,24-hexaoxa-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.8.8]hexacosane,  
20 4,7,13,18-tetraoxa-1,10-diazabicyclo[8.5.5]eicosane, 1,4,10,13-tetraoxa-7,16-diazabicyclooctadecane, 1-aza-12-crown-4, 1-aza-15-crown-5, 1-aza-18-crown-6, tris(2-formyloxyethyl)amine, tris(2-acetoxyethyl)amine, tris(2-propionyloxyethyl)amine, tris(2-butyryloxyethyl)amine,  
25 tris(2-isobutyryloxyethyl)amine, tris(2-valeryloxyethyl)amine, tris(2-pivaloyloxyethyl)amine, N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(acetoxycetoxy)ethylamine, tris(2-methoxycarbonyloxyethyl)amine, tris(2-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyethyl)amine,  
30 tris[2-(2-oxopropoxy)ethyl]amine, tris[2-(methoxycarbonylmethyl)oxyethyl]amine, tris[2-(tert-butoxycarbonylmethyloxy)ethyl]amine, tris[2-(cyclohexyloxy carbonylmethyloxy)ethyl]amine, tris(2-methoxycarbonylethyl)amine,  
35 tris(2-ethoxycarbonylethyl)amine, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethylamine, N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,

N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(ethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(ethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(2-methoxyethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(2-methoxyethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 5 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(2-hydroxyethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(2-acetoxyethoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-[(methoxycarbonyl)methoxycarbonyl]-  
 ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-[(methoxycarbonyl)methoxycarbonyl]-  
 10 ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(2-oxopropoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(2-oxopropoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(tetrahydrofurfuryloxycarbonyl)-  
 ethylamine,  
 15 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-(tetrahydrofurfuryloxycarbonyl)-  
 ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-[(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)oxy-  
 carbonyl]ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-2-[(2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl)oxy-  
 20 carbonyl]ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-2-(4-hydroxybutoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)-2-(4-formyloxybutoxycarbonyl)-  
 ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)-2-(2-formyloxyethoxycarbonyl)-  
 25 ethylamine,  
 N,N-bis(2-methoxyethyl)-2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethylamine,  
 N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-bis[2-(ethoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 30 N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-bis[2-(ethoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-(3-acetoxy-1-propyl)-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-(2-methoxyethyl)-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-butyl-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 35 N-butyl-bis[2-(2-methoxyethoxycarbonyl)ethyl]amine,  
 N-methyl-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)amine,  
 N-ethyl-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)amine,

N-methyl-bis(2-pivaloyloxyethyl)amine,  
 N-ethyl-bis[2-(methoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl]amine,  
 N-ethyl-bis[2-(tert-butoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl]amine,  
 tris(methoxycarbonylmethyl)amine,  
 5 tris(ethoxycarbonylmethyl)amine,  
 N-butyl-bis(methoxycarbonylmethyl)amine,  
 N-hexyl-bis(methoxycarbonylmethyl)amine, and  
 β-(diethylamino)-δ-valerolactone.

Also useful are one or more of cyclic  
 10 structure-bearing basic compounds having the following  
 general formula (B)-2.

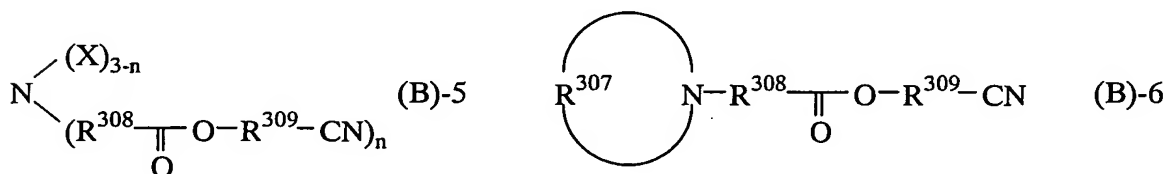
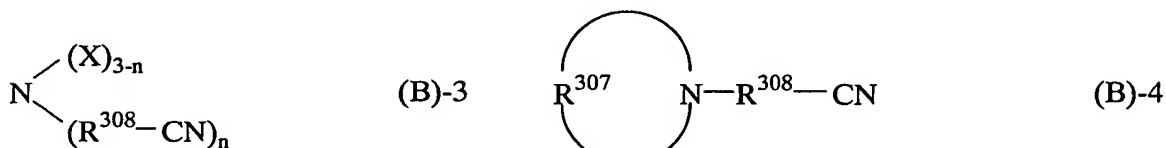


Herein X is as defined above, and R<sup>307</sup> is a straight or  
 branched alkylene group of 2 to 20 carbon atoms which may  
 15 contain one or more carbonyl, ether, ester or sulfide groups.

Illustrative examples of the cyclic structure-bearing  
 basic compounds having formula (B)-2 include  
 1-[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]pyrrolidine,  
 1-[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]piperidine,  
 20 4-[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]morpholine,  
 1-[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy]ethyl]pyrrolidine,  
 1-[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy]ethyl]piperidine,  
 4-[2-[(2-methoxyethoxy)methoxy]ethyl]morpholine,  
 2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl acetate, 2-piperidinoethyl acetate,  
 25 2-morpholinoethyl acetate, 2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl formate,  
 2-piperidinoethyl propionate,  
 2-morpholinoethyl acetoxyacetate,  
 2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)ethyl methoxyacetate,  
 4-[2-(methoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl]morpholine,  
 30 1-[2-(t-butoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl]piperidine,  
 4-[2-(2-methoxyethoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl]morpholine,  
 methyl 3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propionate,  
 methyl 3-piperidinopropionate, methyl 3-morpholinopropionate,

- methyl 3-(thiomorpholino)propionate,  
 methyl 2-methyl-3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propionate,  
 ethyl 3-morpholinopropionate,  
 methoxycarbonylmethyl 3-piperidinopropionate,  
 5 2-hydroxyethyl 3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propionate,  
 2-acetoxyethyl 3-morpholinopropionate,  
 2-oxotetrahydrofuran-3-yl 3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propionate,  
 tetrahydrofurfuryl 3-morpholinopropionate,  
 glycidyl 3-piperidinopropionate,  
 10 2-methoxyethyl 3-morpholinopropionate,  
 2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl 3-(1-pyrrolidinyl)propionate,  
 butyl 3-morpholinopropionate,  
 cyclohexyl 3-piperidinopropionate,  
 $\alpha$ -(1-pyrrolidinyl)methyl- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone,  
 15  $\beta$ -piperidino- $\gamma$ -butyrolactone,  $\beta$ -morpholino- $\delta$ -valerolactone,  
 methyl 1-pyrrolidinylacetate, methyl piperidinoacetate,  
 methyl morpholinoacetate, methyl thiomorpholinoacetate,  
 ethyl 1-pyrrolidinylacetate, and  
 2-methoxyethyl morpholinoacetate.

- 20 Also, one or more of cyano-bearing basic compounds  
 having the following general formulae (B)-3 to (B)-6 may be  
 blended.



- Herein, X,  $R^{307}$  and n are as defined above, and  $R^{308}$  and  $R^{309}$   
 25 are each independently a straight or branched alkylene group  
 of 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

Illustrative examples of the cyano-bearing basic compounds include 3-(diethylamino)propiononitrile, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, 5 N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N,N-bis(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N,N-bis[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]-3-aminopropiononitrile, methyl N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate, methyl N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate, 10 methyl N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-N-(2-cyanoethyl)-3-aminopropionate, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-ethyl-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-N-(2-cyanoethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(2-formyloxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, 15 N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, 20 N-(3-acetoxy-1-propyl)-N-(2-cyanoethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-(3-formyloxy-1-propyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, N-(2-cyanoethyl)-N-tetrahydrofurfuryl-3-aminopropiononitrile, 25 N,N-bis(2-cyanoethyl)-3-aminopropiononitrile, diethylaminoacetoneitrile, N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, 30 N,N-bis(2-methoxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, N,N-bis[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]aminoacetoneitrile, methyl N-cyanomethyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate, methyl N-cyanomethyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate, methyl N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-N-cyanomethyl-3-aminopropionate, 35 N-cyanomethyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, N-(2-acetoxyethyl)-N-(cyanomethyl)aminoacetoneitrile, N-cyanomethyl-N-(2-formyloxyethyl)aminoacetoneitrile,

N-cyanomethyl-N-(2-methoxyethyl)aminoacetonitrile,  
 N-cyanomethyl-N-[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]aminoacetonitrile,  
 N-cyanomethyl-N-(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)aminoacetonitrile,  
 N-(3-acetoxy-1-propyl)-N-(cyanomethyl)aminoacetonitrile,  
 5 N-cyanomethyl-N-(3-formyloxy-1-propyl)aminoacetonitrile,  
 N,N-bis(cyanomethyl)aminoacetonitrile,  
 1-pyrrolidinepropiononitrile, 1-piperidinepropiononitrile,  
 4-morpholinepropiononitrile, 1-pyrrolidineacetonitrile,  
 1-piperidineacetonitrile, 4-morpholineacetonitrile,  
 10 cyanomethyl 3-diethylaminopropionate,  
 cyanomethyl N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 cyanomethyl N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 cyanomethyl N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 cyanomethyl N,N-bis(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 15 cyanomethyl N,N-bis[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]-3-amino-  
 propionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl 3-diethylaminopropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl N,N-bis(2-acetoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 20 2-cyanoethyl N,N-bis(2-formyloxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl N,N-bis(2-methoxyethyl)-3-aminopropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl N,N-bis[2-(methoxymethoxy)ethyl]-3-amino-  
 propionate,  
 cyanomethyl 1-pyrrolidinepropionate,  
 25 cyanomethyl 1-piperidinepropionate,  
 cyanomethyl 4-morpholinepropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl 1-pyrrolidinepropionate,  
 2-cyanoethyl 1-piperidinepropionate, and  
 2-cyanoethyl 4-morpholinepropionate.

30       These basic compounds may be used alone or in  
 admixture of any. The basic compound is preferably  
 formulated in an amount of 0.001 to 2 parts, and especially  
 0.01 to 1 part by weight, per 100 parts by weight of the base  
 resin. Less than 0.001 part of the basic compound may fail  
 35 to achieve the desired effects thereof, while the use of more  
 than 2 parts would result in too low a sensitivity.



Component (E)

The dissolution inhibitor (E) is preferably selected from compounds possessing a weight average molecular weight of 100 to 1,000 and having on the molecule at least two  
5 phenolic hydroxyl groups, in which an average of from 10 to 100 mol% of all the hydrogen atoms on the phenolic hydroxyl groups are replaced with acid labile groups.

Illustrative, non-limiting, examples of the dissolution inhibitor (E) which are useful herein include  
10 bis(4-(2'-tetrahydropyranyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
bis(4-(2'-tetrahydrofuranyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
bis(4-tert-butoxyphenyl)methane,  
bis(4-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyphenyl)methane,  
bis(4-tert-butoxycarbonylmethyloxyphenyl)methane,  
15 bis(4-(1'-ethoxyethoxy)phenyl)methane,  
bis(4-(1'-ethoxypropyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
2,2-bis(4'-(2"-tetrahydropyranyloxy))propane,  
2,2-bis(4'-(2"-tetrahydrofuranyloxy)phenyl)propane,  
2,2-bis(4'-tert-butoxyphenyl)propane,  
20 2,2-bis(4'-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyphenyl)propane,  
2,2-bis(4-tert-butoxycarbonylmethyloxyphenyl)propane,  
2,2-bis(4'-(1"-ethoxyethoxy)phenyl)propane,  
2,2-bis(4'-(1"-ethoxypropyloxy)phenyl)propane,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-(2"-tetrahydropyranyloxy)phenyl)-  
25 valerate,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-(2"-tetrahydrofuranyloxy)phenyl)-  
valerate,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-tert-butoxyphenyl)valerate,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyphenyl)valerate,  
30 tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-tert-butoxycarbonylmethyloxyphenyl)-  
valerate,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-(1"-ethoxyethoxy)phenyl)valerate,  
tert-butyl 4,4-bis(4'-(1"-ethoxypropyloxy)phenyl)valerate,  
tris(4-(2'-tetrahydropyranyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
35 tris(4-(2'-tetrahydrofuranyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
tris(4-tert-butoxyphenyl)methane,  
tris(4-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyphenyl)methane,

tris(4-tert-butoxycarbonyloxymethylphenyl)methane,  
tris(4-(1'-ethoxyethoxy)phenyl)methane,  
tris(4-(1'-ethoxypropyloxy)phenyl)methane,  
1,1,2-tris(4'-(2"-tetrahydropyranyloxy)phenyl)ethane,  
5 1,1,2-tris(4'-(2"-tetrahydrofuranyloxy)phenyl)ethane,  
1,1,2-tris(4'-tert-butoxyphenyl)ethane,  
1,1,2-tris(4'-tert-butoxycarbonyloxyphenyl)ethane,  
1,1,2-tris(4'-tert-butoxycarbonylmethyloxyphenyl)ethane,  
1,1,2-tris(4'-(1'-ethoxyethoxy)phenyl)ethane, and  
10 1,1,2-tris(4'-(1'-ethoxypropyloxy)phenyl)ethane.

The compounds serving as dissolution inhibitor have a weight average molecular weight of 100 to 1,000, preferably 150 to 800.

An appropriate amount of the dissolution inhibitor (E)  
15 is 0 to about 50 parts, preferably about 5 to 50 parts, and especially about 10 to 30 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the base resin. Less amounts of the dissolution inhibitor may fail to yield an improved resolution, whereas  
20 too much amounts would lead to slimming of the patterned film, and thus a decline in resolution. The inhibitor may be used singly or as a mixture of two or more thereof.

The resist composition of the invention may include optional ingredients, typically a surfactant which is commonly used for improving the coating characteristics.  
25 Optional ingredients may be added in conventional amounts so long as this does not compromise the objects of the invention.

Illustrative, non-limiting, examples of the surfactant include nonionic surfactants, for example, polyoxyethylene  
30 alkyl ethers such as polyoxyethylene lauryl ether, polyoxyethylene stearyl ether, polyoxyethylene cetyl ether, and polyoxyethylene oleyl ether, polyoxyethylene alkylaryl ethers such as polyoxyethylene octylphenol ether and polyoxyethylene nonylphenol ether, polyoxyethylene  
35 polyoxypropylene block copolymers, sorbitan fatty acid esters such as sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monopalmitate, and sorbitan monostearate, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty

acid esters such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monostearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleate, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan tristearate; fluorochemical surfactants such as EFTOP EF301, EF303 and EF352 (Tohkem Products Co., Ltd.), Megaface F171, F172 and F173 (Dai-Nippon Ink & Chemicals, Inc.), Fluorad FC430 and FC431 (Sumitomo 3M Co., Ltd.), Asahiguard AG710, Surflon S-381, S-382, SC101, SC102, SC103, SC104, SC105, SC106, Surfynol E1004, KH-10, KH-20, KH-30 and KH-40 (Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.); organosiloxane polymers KP341, X-70-092 and X-70-093 (Shin-Etsu Chemical Co., Ltd.), acrylic acid or methacrylic acid Polyflow No. 75 and No. 95 (Kyo-eisha Ushi Kagaku Kogyo Co., Ltd.). Inter alia, FC430, Surflon S-381, Surfynol E1004, KH-20 and KH-30 are preferred. These surfactants may be used alone or in admixture.

Pattern formation using the resist composition of the invention may be carried out by a known lithographic technique. For example, the resist composition may be applied onto a substrate such as a silicon wafer by spin coating or the like to form a resist film having a thickness of 0.1 to 1.0  $\mu\text{m}$ , which is then pre-baked on a hot plate at 60 to 200°C for 10 seconds to 10 minutes, and preferably at 80 to 150°C for 1/2 to 5 minutes. A patterning mask having the desired pattern may then be placed over the resist film, and the film exposed through the mask to an electron beam or to high-energy radiation such as deep-UV rays, excimer laser beams, or x-rays in an exposure dose of about 1 to 200  $\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ , and preferably about 10 to 100  $\text{mJ}/\text{cm}^2$ , then post-exposure baked (PEB) on a hot plate at 60 to 150°C for 10 seconds to 5 minutes, and preferably at 80 to 130°C for 1/2 to 3 minutes. Finally, development may be carried out using as the developer an aqueous alkali solution, such as 0.1 to 5%, and preferably 2 to 3%, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH), this being done by a conventional method such as dipping, puddling, or spraying for a period of 10 seconds to 3 minutes, and preferably 30 seconds to 2 minutes.

These steps result in the formation of the desired pattern on the substrate.

Of the various types of high-energy radiation that may be used, the resist composition of the invention is best suited to micro-pattern formation with, in particular, deep-UV rays having a wavelength of 254 to 120 nm, an excimer laser, especially ArF laser (193 nm), F<sub>2</sub> laser (157 nm), Kr<sub>2</sub> laser (146 nm), KrAr laser (134 nm) or Ar<sub>2</sub> laser (126 nm), x-rays, or an electron beam. Recommended is exposure to high-energy radiation in a wavelength band of 100 to 180 nm or 1 to 30 nm, specifically F<sub>2</sub> laser beam, Ar<sub>2</sub> laser beam or soft x-ray. The desired pattern may not be obtainable outside the upper and lower limits of the above range.

The resist composition of the invention is sensitive to high-energy radiation, maintains high transparency at a wavelength of up to 200 nm, and has improved alkali dissolution contrast and plasma etching resistance. These features permit the inventive resist composition to easily form a finely defined pattern having sidewalls perpendicular to the substrate and a high aspect ratio through F<sub>2</sub> laser exposure, making the resist ideal as a micropatterning material in VLSI fabrication.

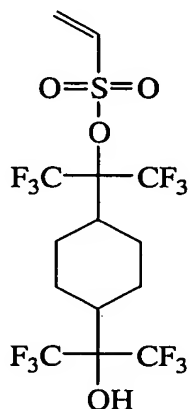
#### EXAMPLE

Examples of the invention are given below by way of illustration and not by way of limitation. The abbreviations used herein are GPC for gel permeation chromatography, NMR for nuclear magnetic resonance, Mw for weight average molecular weight, Mn for number average molecular weight, Mw/Mn for molecular weight distribution or dispersity, AIBN for 2,2'-azobisisobutyronitrile, THF for tetrahydrofuran, and PGMEA for propylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate.

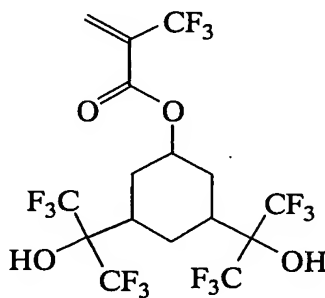
### Polymer Synthesis Example 1

Copolymerization of Monomer 1, Monomer 2 and Monomer 3  
(0.2:0.2:0.6)

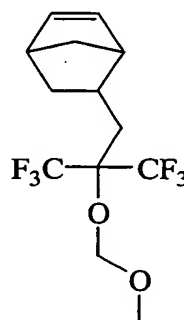
5 A 300-ml flask was charged with 5.03 g of Monomer 1,  
5.50 g of Monomer 2, and 9.48 g of Monomer 3, all shown  
below, which were dissolved in 5.0 g of 1,4-dioxane. The  
system was fully purged of oxygen, charged with 0.41 g of the  
initiator AIBN, and heated at 65°C at which polymerization  
reaction took place for 24 hours.



Monomer 1



Monomer 2



Monomer 3

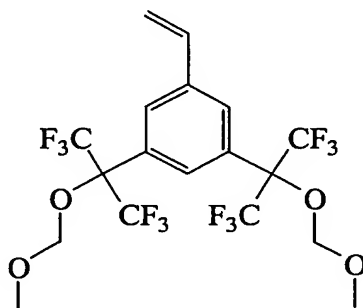
10

The polymer thus obtained was worked up by pouring the  
reaction mixture into 1 liter of hexane whereupon the polymer  
precipitated. The procedure of dissolving the polymer in THF  
and pouring in 1 liter of hexane for precipitation was  
15 repeated twice, after which the polymer was separated and  
dried. There was obtained 12.9 g of a white polymer, which  
was found to have a Mw of 5,800 as measured by the light  
scattering method, and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.5 as  
determined from the GPC elution curve. On <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis,  
20 the polymer was found to consist of respective units derived  
from Monomer 1, Monomer 2 and Monomer 3 in a molar ratio of  
0.21:0.19:0.60.

### Polymer Synthesis Example 2

Copolymerization of Monomer 1, Monomer 2 and Monomer 4  
(0.2:0.2:0.6)

5 A 300-ml flask was charged with 3.85 g of Monomer 1,  
4.21 g of Monomer 2, and 11.95 g of Monomer 4, shown below,  
which were dissolved in 5.0 g of 1,4-dioxane. The system was  
fully purged of oxygen, charged with 0.31 g of the initiator  
AIBN, and heated at 65°C at which polymerization reaction  
took place for 24 hours.



Monomer 4

10

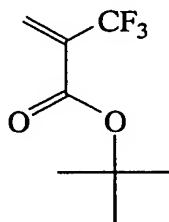
The polymer thus obtained was worked up by pouring the  
reaction mixture into 1 liter of hexane whereupon the polymer  
precipitated. The procedure of dissolving the polymer in THF  
and pouring in 1 liter of hexane for precipitation was  
15 repeated twice, after which the polymer was separated and  
dried. There was obtained 12.7 g of a white polymer, which  
was found to have a Mw of 8,700 as measured by the light  
scattering method, and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.5 as  
determined from the GPC elution curve. On <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis,  
20 the polymer was found to consist of respective units derived  
from Monomer 1, Monomer 2 and Monomer 4 in a molar ratio of  
0.21:0.21:0.58.

### Polymer Synthesis Example 3

25 Copolymerization of Monomer 1, Monomer 2, Monomer 3 and  
Monomer 5 (0.1:0.1:0.6:0.2)

A 300-ml flask was charged with 3.01 g of Monomer 1,  
3.30 g of Monomer 2, 11.36 g of Monomer 3, and 2.33 g of

Monomer 5, shown below, which were dissolved in 5.0 g of 1,4-dioxane. The system was fully purged of oxygen, charged with 0.49 g of the initiator AIBN, and heated at 65°C at which polymerization reaction took place for 24 hours.



Monomer 5

5

The polymer thus obtained was worked up by pouring the reaction mixture into 1 liter of hexane whereupon the polymer precipitated. The procedure of dissolving the polymer in THF and pouring in 1 liter of hexane for precipitation was repeated twice, after which the polymer was separated and dried. There was obtained 13.9 g of a white polymer, which was found to have a Mw of 5,800 as measured by the light scattering method, and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.4 as determined from the GPC elution curve. On <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis, the polymer was found to consist of respective units derived from Monomer 1, Monomer 2, Monomer 3 and Monomer 5 in a molar ratio of 0.08:0.10:0.59:0.23.

#### Polymer Synthesis Example 4

20 Copolymerization of Monomer 1, Monomer 2, Monomer 4 and Monomer 5 (0.2:0.1:0.5:0.2)

A 300-ml flask was charged with 5.63 g of Monomer 1, 3.08 g of Monomer 2, 5.83 g of Monomer 4, and 5.46 g of Monomer 5, which were dissolved in 5.0 g of 1,4-dioxane. The system was fully purged of oxygen, charged with 0.46 g of the initiator AIBN, and heated at 65°C at which polymerization reaction took place for 24 hours.

25 The polymer thus obtained was worked up by pouring the reaction mixture into 1 liter of hexane whereupon the polymer

precipitated. The procedure of dissolving the polymer in THF and pouring in 1 liter of hexane for precipitation was repeated twice, after which the polymer was separated and dried. There was obtained 12.2 g of a white polymer, which  
5 was found to have a Mw of 8,800 as measured by the light scattering method, and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.4 as determined from the GPC elution curve. On <sup>1</sup>H-NMR analysis, the polymer was found to consist of respective units derived from Monomer 1, Monomer 2, Monomer 4 and Monomer 5 in a molar  
10 ratio of 0.18:0.11:0.52:0.19.

### Evaluation

#### Polymer transmittance measurement

The polymers obtained in Polymer Synthesis Examples 1  
15 to 4, designated Polymers 1 to 4, respectively, were determined for transmittance. Three other polymers were furnished for comparison purposes. Comparative Polymer 1 is a monodisperse polyhydroxystyrene having a molecular weight of 10,000 and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.1 in which 30% of  
20 hydroxyl groups are replaced by tetrahydropyranyl groups. Similarly, Comparative Polymer 2 is polymethyl methacrylate having a molecular weight of 15,000 and a dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 1.7; and Comparative Polymer 3 is a novolac polymer having a meta/para ratio of 40/60, a molecular weight of 9,000 and a  
25 dispersity (Mw/Mn) of 2.5.

Each polymer, 1 g, was thoroughly dissolved in 20 g of PGMEA, and passed through a 0.2- $\mu$ m filter, obtaining a polymer solution. The polymer solution was spin coated onto a MgF<sub>2</sub> substrate and baked on a hot plate at 100°C for 90  
30 seconds, forming a polymer film of 100 nm thick on the substrate. Using a vacuum ultraviolet spectrometer (VUV-200S by Nihon Bunko Co., Ltd.), the polymer film was measured for transmittance at 248 nm, 193 nm and 157 nm. The results are shown in Table 1.



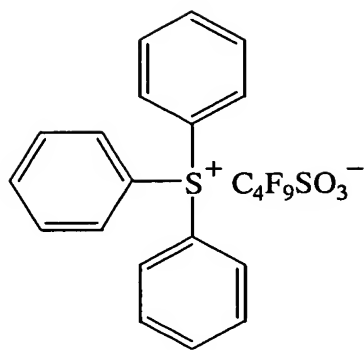
Table 1

	Transmittance (%)		
	248 nm	193 nm	157 nm
Polymer 1	99	93	74
Polymer 2	99	5	69
Polymer 3	99	94	71
Polymer 4	99	8	67
Comparative Polymer 1	90	5	15
Comparative Polymer 2	91	80	12
Comparative Polymer 3	82	6	17

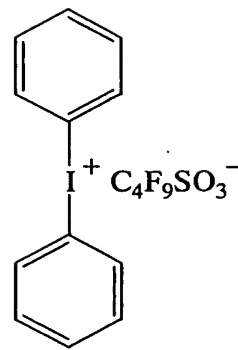
It is evident from Table 1 that resist materials using  
5 the inventive polymers maintain sufficient transparency at  
the F<sub>2</sub> laser wavelength (157 nm).

Resist preparation and exposure

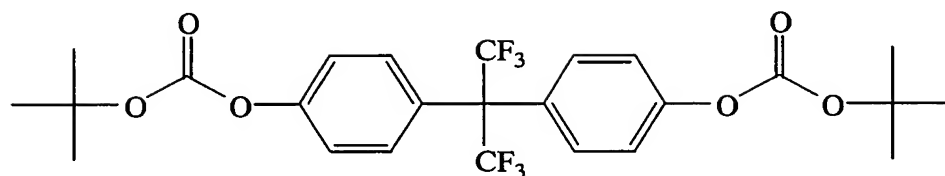
10 Resist solutions were prepared in a conventional  
manner by dissolving amounts as shown in Table 2 of the  
polymer, photoacid generator (PAG1 or PAG2), basic compound,  
and dissolution inhibitor (DRI1) in 1,000 parts by weight of  
PGMEA.



PAG1



PAG2



DRI1

On silicon wafers having a film of DUV-30 (Brewer Science) coated to a thickness of 85 nm, the resist solutions  
 5 were spin coated, then baked on a hot plate at 120°C for 90 seconds to give resist films having a thickness of 100 nm.

The resist films were exposed by means of an F<sub>2</sub> excimer laser exposure tool (VUVES-4500 by Litho Tech Japan Corp.) while varying the exposure dose. Immediately after exposure,  
 10 the resist films were baked (PEB) at 120°C for 90 seconds and then developed for 60 seconds with a 2.38% aqueous solution of tetramethylammonium hydroxide. The film thickness was measured in different dose areas. From the residual film thickness-to-dose relationship, the sensitivity (Eth) was  
 15 determined as the exposure dose giving a film thickness 0. A γ value which was the slope (tanθ) of the characteristic curve was also determined.

Separately, through a mask having a Cr pattern formed on a MgF<sub>2</sub> substrate, the resist film in close contact with  
 20 the Cr pattern surface was exposed to a F<sub>2</sub> laser for

effecting contact exposure. The exposure was followed by similar PEB and development, forming a pattern. A cross section of the pattern was observed under SEM, the ascertainable minimum pattern size giving a resolution.

5

Table 2

Polymer (pbw)	Photoacid generator (pbw)	Basic compound (pbw)	Dissolution inhibitor (pbw)	Solvent (pbw)	Eth, mJ/cm <sup>2</sup>	$\gamma$
Polymer 1 (100)	PAG1 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	18	8.9
Polymer 2 (100)	PAG1 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	16	10.5
Polymer 3 (100)	PAG1 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	10	10.7
Polymer 4 (100)	PAG1 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	7	9.3
Polymer 3 (100)	PAG1 (4)	triethanolamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	12	10.1
Polymer 3 (100)	PAG1 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	DRI1 (10)	PGMEA (1000)	9	10.0
Polymer 3 (100)	PAG2 (4)	tributylamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	10	12.7
Comparative Polymer 1 (100)	PAG1 (4)	triethanolamine (0.1)	-	PGMEA (1000)	non-sensitive, turned negative without film thickness decreasing to 0 nm	-

10 Upon exposure to VUVES, the resist compositions within the scope of the invention exhibited high gamma values and high contrast and exerted the positive working effect that the film thickness decreased with an increasing exposure dose. The resolving power upon contact exposure was high.

15 Dry etching test

A polymer solution was prepared by thoroughly dissolving 2 g of each of Polymers 1 to 4 in 10 g of PGMEA and passing the solution through a 0.2-micron size filter. The polymer solution was spin coated to a silicon substrate and baked to form a polymer film of 300 nm thick. The

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polymer film formed on the substrate was subjected to dry etching under two sets of conditions. A first etching test with CHF<sub>3</sub>/CF<sub>4</sub> gas was performed using a dry etching instrument TE-8500P by Tokyo Electron K.K. A second etching test with Cl<sub>2</sub>/BCl<sub>3</sub> gas was performed using a dry etching instrument L-507D-L by Nichiden Anerba K.K. A difference in polymer film thickness before and after the etching test was determined. The etching conditions are shown in Table 3, and the results in Table 4.

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Table 3

	CHF <sub>3</sub> /CF <sub>4</sub> gas	Cl <sub>2</sub> /BCl <sub>3</sub> gas
Chamber pressure (Pa)	40.0	40.0
RF power (W)	1,300	300
Gap (mm)	9	9
Gas flow rate (ml/min)	CHF <sub>3</sub> : 30 CF <sub>4</sub> : 30 Ar: 100	Cl <sub>2</sub> : 30 BCl <sub>3</sub> : 30 CHF <sub>3</sub> : 100 O <sub>2</sub> : 2
Time (sec)	30	30

Table 4

Polymer	CHF <sub>3</sub> /CF <sub>4</sub> gas etching rate (nm/min)	Cl <sub>2</sub> /BCl <sub>3</sub> gas etching rate (nm/min)
Polymer 1	220	280
Polymer 2	170	200
Polymer 3	170	200
Polymer 4	190	215

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It is evident from Table 4 that the resist compositions within the scope of the invention are fully resistant to dry etching.

Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-032675 is incorporated herein by reference.

Although some preferred embodiments have been described, many modifications and variations may be made thereto in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described without departing from the scope of the appended claims.